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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you think the House minority bloc will eventually have the numbers to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

When man first harnessed fire, no one recorded it. When the Wright Brothers showed man could fly, only a handful of people witnessed it. But when Neil Armstrong took that first small step on the moon in July 1969, an entire globe watched in grainy black-and-white from a quarter-million miles away.

➤ PAGE 13

OVERDRIVE

Let's start with this car's name. It's the Mitsubishi i, the company's first mass-produced electric automobile. In the rest of the world, it's known as the i-MiEV, which stands for Mitsubishi Innovative Electric Car. Neither name is memorable, but at least the second one makes sense in an unpoetic, corporate-speak way.

➤ PAGE 16

Man allegedly behind 'Made in USA' babies scheme arrested. PAGE 3
CNMI voluntarily dismisses FICA lawsuit. PAGE 5

Fitial impeachment resolution pre-filed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» House minority bloc: People have lost faith, confidence in governor's leadership
» 16 articles of impeachment for felony, corruption, neglect of duty

Seven members of the House minority bloc led by Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) pre-filed yesterday afternoon a resolution to initiate impeachment proceedings against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for multiple commissions of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty, marking a socio-political milestone in CNMI history and drawing swift reactions from community members describing the impeachment movers as the "Magnificent Seven."

See FITIAL on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House minority leader Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), left, reads his public statement on the pre-filing of a resolution to initiate impeachment proceedings against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in the Senate chamber yesterday afternoon. Looking on are the six co-authors, from left, Reps. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), and Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan).

Richards steps down as CHC director for medical affairs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Dr. Jeremy Richards has stepped down as the Commonwealth Health Center's director for medical affairs, barely four months after succeeding Dr. Michael Deary in the post.

Richards confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday his decision to resign his position and added that he had already informed the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board and CEO Juan N. Babauta about this intention to leave.

Richards was named DMA in the

See CHC on Page 4

Impeachment resolution: CNMI history in the making

Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House minority bloc's pre-filing yesterday of a resolution to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial marked a "first" in CNMI history, but it was not the first "attempt" to impeach a governor, according to current and former lawmakers.

See IMPEACHMENT on Page 4

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Local

CHC to receive significant hike in Medicaid reimbursements

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The governor's special adviser on Medicaid Program, Esther Muna, disclosed to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board that the public hospital will soon receive a significant increase in its Medicaid reimbursement starting this fiscal year once formal approval is received from the Center for Medicare Medicaid Services.

» CMMS formal approval of CPE as matching fund anticipated

CMMS Region IX is currently reviewing the CNMI's proposal to use certain "certified expenditure authority" (CPE) as its local matching fund for its Medicaid program in order to receive higher reimbursement from the federal government. The Medicaid program is a federal/state program established for low-income residents and was assigned 45-55 percent matching requirements.

Muna, in her presentation to the board Friday, disclosed that the government has identified $15 million "CPE" that can all be used as local matching for the Medicaid program.

These are the $5 million seed money for the corporation, the $3 million initial loan from Marianas Public Land Trust, and the yet-to-be released $7 million additional line of credit from MPLT. All these monies are considered CPEs because they went through legislative process and were approved for the corporation by virtue of statute.

According to Muna, of these three identified "CPEs" only the $5 million seed money has so far been approved and will be factored in the new calculation of Medicaid reimbursement for the CHC, which will be used as basis in calculating the "actual cost" incurred by the public hospital in providing services to Medicaid patients.

Muña

Saipan Tribune learned that there are several steps that the CNMI Medicaid Program has gone through in order to get approval of CPE. First, a memorandum of understanding was secured early this year between CMMS and CNMI.

"When we realized there's no money for CHC, we presented to the governor ways on how we can help CHC…and the answer is CPE. So the first thing we did, we secured an MOU as soon as possible and we got this approved in March this year," said Muna.

The second step was the identification of additional matching funds and which has been achieved as it identified the $15 million to be used as the 45-percent matching requirement of the CNMI.

Muna revealed that after identifying the $15 million, they had submitted an amendment to the Medicaid state plan for 2012 which specifically indicated two changes: definition and identification of emergency services at the hospital, and the inclusion of Federated States of Micronesia pregnant women as among those eligible for Medicaid benefits. This amendment plan was approved in January.

The next step is the new calculation for reimbursement using the CPE. Muna said an agreement was reached that new calculation for reimbursement will use as basis the formula used in calculating the Medicare cost. This, she said, has also been approved and accepted last month by both parties.

The final step, according to Muna, is to wait for the formal approval of the CMMS on the CPE proposal. She said once approval is received, new calculation will take effect since start of FY 2012 in October.

"The funding [reimbursement] we are giving you is based on actual data or actual cost. We don't want to give you pieces-by-pieces [reimbursement]… but the bulk of the amount so we can see improvement of the services," Muna told the board.

Muna said what the corporation is receiving from Medicaid this year is classified as "interim or advanced payment" for the new calculation of reimbursement.

She disclosed that under the new calculation of reimbursement, $4 million has yet been released from the federal side pending the formal approval from CMMS.

Supplemental funds for healthcare improvement released

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Bureau of Primary Health Care announced last Friday the release of the fiscal year 2012 supplemental funding for quality improvement in health center; which opens the door for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to apply and avail of up to $60,000 in additional federal aid.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* the receipt of the notice from the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is tasked to improve access to health care services of people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable.

The purpose of the supplemental funding opportunity is to improve access to services, quality of care, and clinical outcomes for existing Section 330 funded health centers through the patient centered medical home (PCMH) model of care. The supplemental funding will specifically focus on improving outcomes related to cervical cancer screening for health center patients by supporting health centers in taking the operational steps necessary to achieve, increase, and maintain PCMH recognition at their sites and improve cervical cancer screening outcomes.

"Approximately $35 million is available to support this one-time, one-year supplemental funding. Eligible health centers will be notified of the opportunity through a HRSA Electronic Handbook (EHB) message and may request up to $60,000 in supplemental funds," stated the announcement Friday, adding that applications must be submitted by on or before Sept. 5, 2012. It, however, noted that those grantees with five or more active conditions at the time of award will not be awarded this supplemental funding.

Based on the announcement, the funding request will be completed in electronic handbook using the "Other Submissions" module within the H80 Grant Handbook. Applicants must complete application and budget forms, and upload a project narrative including plans for becoming recognized as a PCMH, budget narrative, and PCMH notice of intent and/or proof of recognition. For additional guidance on completion of the application, eligible grantees are invited to participate in an applicant technical assistance call.

10th suspect in sweep operations arrested in Washington

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The 10th suspect in the sweep of warrant of arrests conducted by combined federal and local law enforcement agencies last Wednesday on Saipan was apprehended in Tacoma, Washington.

According to court documents, federal agents served on the same date, Aug. 22, to Jordan Mendiola Reyes the arrest warrant issued by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Manglona issued the arrest warrant after the U.S. government filed last Monday, Aug. 20, a complaint, charging Reyes with two counts of distribution of methamphetamine or "ice."

Reyes is expected to be brought back to Saipan. As of yesterday afternoon, there was no schedule yet for his hearing in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

On Friday, a federal grand jury indicted Reyes with one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and two counts of distribution of methamphetamine.

From June 10, 2010 until Aug. 22, 2012, Reyes allegedly conspired with other persons to distribute "ice."

Reyes allegedly distributed .64 and .40 grams of "ice" on July 18, 2011 and Aug. 25, 2011 respectively.

Reyes allegedly sold to a "confidential source" the "ice" in the total amount of $800 in the two transactions that happened in the parking lots of a bank in Chalan Laulau and of a bank in Garapan.

On Friday, a federal grand jury also indicted nine other persons, including former police captain Delbert Reyes Sablan as well as active and former law enforcers, who were all arrested on Saipan Wednesday by combined federal and local law enforcement agencies for alleged distribution of methamphetamine or "ice" and possession of a firearm by a felon charges.

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

China's Sina Weibo Promotions

With the opening of offices in China this year, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is moving full speed ahead in promoting Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through the use of its official website and on-line blogs in the market.

The MVA's Sina Weibo account was approved in July, and 25 posts were made during the first month of operations to promote the market. Sina Weibo is the equivalent of Twitter and has over half of the Chinese micro-blogging market. Live broadcasts of marketing activities were also streamed.

On July 14, the MVA participated in a Sina Travel Bloggers Salon. The event, held at Tangla Beijing Hotel, aimed to increase awareness of the Northern Marianas with Chinese travel bloggers and introduce them to tourism resources. Approximately 50 Sina bloggers attended the event, with six bloggers selected to speak directly with MVA staff to learn more about visiting the Northern Marianas. A video about the islands was also shown to all attendees.

As of June this fiscal year, arrivals to the Northern Marianas from China are up 83 percent to 58,100, or 20 percent of total visitor arrivals.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Man allegedly behind 'Made in USA' babies scheme arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Federal agents arrested on Saturday a man who allegedly devised a scheme using articles he created in the Internet to encourage Chinese nationals to come to Saipan to give birth to U.S. citizen children.

Kuanyi Chen, 39, also known as Pangzi, was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon for his initial court appearance.

Attorney Mark Hanson was appointed as counsel for Chen, who was detained based on a criminal complaint charging him with one count of harboring illegal aliens and two counts of enticing the illegal entry of aliens.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Michael D. Lansangan stated in his report that Chen, a Saipan resident and citizen of Taiwan, is involved in the recruitment and facilitation of travel, housing and other services for citizens of the People's Republic of China who travel to Saipan from China for the purpose of giving birth to U.S. citizen children.

The past couple of years, the scheme has come to be known as birth tourism and "Made in USA" scheme.

Lansangan said Chen provides services and consultation to Chinese families for a fee, despite having knowledge that these aliens intend to violate their parole and misrepresent their intentions for entering Saipan to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers.

Lansangan said the defendant communicates with these prospective Chinese customers through articles posted on the Internet and through the Internet social network/messenger service known as QQ.

On July 9, 2012 a special agent interviewed Youli Xu, a Chinese citizen, who claimed that he had been cheated and victimized by a Saipan resident named Pangzi.

Homeland Security Investigation agents later identified Pangzi as Chen.

Lansangan said Xu was referred to HSI by a law enforcement official from another federal agency.

On July 23, 2012, Lansangan said the special agent conducted computerized immigration records checks on Xu and his wife Rongqin Gao.

Lansangan said Xu told him and the other special agent that he had conducted research on the Internet on how to give birth to their child outside of China.

Using an Internet search, Xu found numerous articles and Internet webpage links describing the possibility and advantages of giving birth to a child on Saipan.

One article, titled "US Giving Birth," included information about Saipan as an island that gives U.S. citizenship to any person born there after 1986 and guidance that pregnant women should travel to Saipan when they are four or five months pregnant, among other information.

» Chen said to have enticed' Chinese tourists to give birth on Saipan for a fee

» Suspect charged with harboring illegal aliens, enticing illegal entry of aliens

In the articles, Chen provides contact information in the form of QQ Internet messenger accounts, as well as Chinese telephone number.

Chen told the customers about different entry bans.

Lansangan said that, on March 14, 2012, Xu paid Chen $533.

Of this amount, $133 was for Xu and Gao's one night stay at the hotel. The remaining $400 was half of the consultation fee of $800 that Chen and Xu had agreed upon.

The balance of $400 was to be paid after Gao delivered her baby on Saipan.

Lansangan said according to Xu, he returned to China on March 20, 2012, leaving Gao and their minor-age son on Saipan.

Xu returned to Saipan in April 2012.

Xu learned from Gao that she had an argument with Chen because he was restricting all the pregnant women's movements outdoors because of immigration officials.

On July 10, 2012, Lansangan said Xu showed him and the other special agent digital photographs of Chen and his wife which Xu retrieved from the photo application on his tablet computer.

Among the photographs were two vehicles owned by Chen and his wife.

Lansangan said that, on July 18, 2012, HIS agents spotted Chen at a restaurant in Susupe and placed him under surveillance.

The agents then interviewed Chen's other customers and subsequently arrested Chen.

Chen allegedly described to Xu and Gao the advantages of traveling to Saipan from China to give birth to a U.S. citizen child and assured them that the information provided in his articles were accurate.

Chen also described the services he provided to customers for a fee, which included among other things, free consultation on Saipan for the pregnant woman, arrangements for itinerary and travel of the pregnant woman to Saipan, instructions on how to board the plane and how to go through customs officials.

In March 2012, Xu and Gao decided to travel from China to Saipan to give birth to a U.S. citizen child.

Chen informed Xu that the consultation fee would be $800. Xu agreed to pay Chen the amount.

The couple said they followed the instructions and recommendation given to them by Chen.

Chen had sent Xu reservation information for a Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel prior to traveling to Saipan.

Chen met Xu and Gao at the hotel after they arrived on Saipan and paid for hotel transportation from the airport to the hotel.

Chen paid the hotel $133 in cash for the couple to stay there for one night.

The following morning Xu and Gao were met by Qingquing Wang, a Chinese national whom Xu had met online on Chen's QQ chat group.

Wang and his wife Min Gong had also allegedly used the services of Chen to come to Saipan and give birth to a U.S. citizen child.

Chen later arrived at the hotel and joined Xu, Gao and Wang in Xu's hotel room.

Xu and Gao then checked out of the hotel and rode in Chen's car to a nearby apartment complex.

Chen also held a group meeting that day with Xu, Gao, Wang, Gong, and other birthing customers—a couple and a woman.

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CHC

From Page 1

latter part of March this year following the departure of Dr. Michael Deary, who left not only his DMA position but his post as pediatrician of the public hospital.

According to the outgoing DMA, he has yet to submit a formal letter of resignation to Babauta but he announced it during Friday's board meeting. Richards is one of the hospital's psychiatrists.

"I'm only stepping down as DMA at this point. I am going to continue to be a full-time psychiatrist," he confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, admitting that he cannot both do the work of DMA and full-time psychiatrist at the same time.

Richards is planning to submit his formal resignation to the CEO today. As of yesterday, no interim has been named for the DMA position.

Since last year, the public hospital has recorded a fast turnover rate in its DMA position. Since the resignation of Dr. Richard Brostrom, the following individuals have occupied the post—Dr. Shirish Balachandra, Dr. Michael Deary, and Dr. Jeremy Richards. The first three resigned from CHC.

Meantime, hospital employees received their promised payroll last Friday including personnel allotments.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta, in his memorandum to all employees, said "payroll for pay period #17 was paid to all employees and it includes payment for all allotments including employee retirement contribution, employee health insurance, and employee life insurance."

"This makes CHCC current and up to date with payroll and allotments," said Babauta. However, he regrettably stated that the corporation is not current nor have paid the employer contributions for retirement.

Corporation chief financial officer Alvaro Santos told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that the corporation, at this point, has yet to pay any housing allowance to employees. This benefit has been delayed for six months now. The corporation provides $600 monthly housing perks to single employees hired from off-island, while $800 is provided monthly for those with families.

Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that once a portion of the $7 million Marianas Public Land Trust line of credit for hospital is released, the corporation will do its best to partially pay this housing benefit.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos has requested MPLT to immediately release $2.2 million for the hospital's immediate needs. However, no decision has yet been made by the MPLT board.

According to the CFO, the corporation has 436 full-time employees at present and pays approximately $650,000 each payroll. The figure is a drastic decline from FY 2011's 600 FTEs.

The corporation was allocated only $5 million for its entire operation this fiscal year, which include operations of Tinian and Rota health centers. When the agency was still the Department of Public Health, the Legislature appropriated $38 million a year for its operation and personnel, not including the Tinian and Rota health centers which were then under each municipality's budget.

IMPEACHMENT

From Page 1

An attempt to impeach then governor Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero was initiated in 1992 but that didn't reach the point wherein a resolution was pre-filed, Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) separately said yesterday.

Reyes, a member of the 8th House of Representatives, said he was appointed by the speaker to head a Committee on Impeachment at the time.

He said his panel reviewed the complaint against Deleon Guerrero in connection with the purchase of a power generator for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to determine whether the allegations could rise to the level of impeachable offense.

"The allegations did not rise to an impeachable offense. So it didn't even come to a point wherein a resolution was pre-filed or introduced," Reyes said.

Reyes said as chair of that special committee, he, along with other members, received 24-hour police escorts for some two weeks.

Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI, separately said he remembers too well the date—Sept. 26, 1992 between 3am and 3:30am—when his house was shot at and it was believed to be linked to the impeachment talks. He was a member of the impeachment committee back then.

"There never was a resolution at the time. We were just reviewing whether there's basis for filing a resolution for impeachment," he said.

Former speaker and lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, the vice speaker during the 8th Legislature, also confirmed the impeachment talks in 1992.

Benavente also said he supports the resolution that the House minority bloc led by Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) pre-filed yesterday afternoon to initiate impeachment proceedings against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial multiple commissions of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

"More power to them," Benavente said, adding that for months, he called for Fitial's resignation or impeachment "because of a lot of problems that remain unsolved in the CNMI"—the Retirement Fund, hospital, and utilities.

"People in the community, young or old, rich or poor, have been calling for the governor's impeachment. And I applaud those who responded and listened to the people's call," Benavente said, referring to the seven co-authors who are members of the House minority bloc which he used to lead prior to resigning last year for family reasons.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) was joined by co-authors Reps. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) and Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) when they pre-filed House Resolution 17-111 at around 3:30pm yesterday.

The 22-page resolution listed 16 articles of impeachment, including five acts of corruption, seven acts of neglect of duty, and four commissions of felonies.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Fitial, the seventh CNMI governor, is currently in Tampa, Florida for the Republican National Convention where Mitt Romney will officially accept his party's presidential nomination.

House Resolution 17-111 listed 16 articles of impeachment, including five acts of corruption, seven acts of neglect of duty, and four commissions of felonies.

"We have listed 16 articles which demonstrate this governor not only exceeded but abused his authority," Deleon Guerrero said during a news briefing wherein House minority bloc members affixed their signatures to the impeachment resolution one by one.

Besides Deleon Guerrero, the six co-authors of the impeachment resolution are Reps. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), and Trenton Conner (R-Tinian).

"Our people have lost faith and confidence in the ability and leadership of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to govern the Commonwealth as its highest elected official. It is no longer a question of should we impeach but how soon," Deleon Guerrero said.

'Impeachable offenses'

HR 17-111's title states, "Impeaching Benigno Repeki Fitial, governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for commission of a felony, corruption and neglect."

The resolution's Articles I to IV were for "Commission of a felony." Articles V to IX were for "Corruption," while Articles X to XVI were for "Neglect."

The NMI Constitution says the Legislature may impeach the governor for "treason, commission of a felony, corruption, or neglect of duty."

The 22-page resolution's impeachable offenses were in connection with Fitial's use of a federal inmate temporarily taken out of prison to give him a massage at his house during wee hours of the night to morning in January 2010, failure to nominate a Supreme Court chief justice and members of the Public Utilities Commission, and failure to remit full contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund since 2006,

Also included were his award of an almost $400,000 sole-source contract to a former Cabinet secretary within days of resigning in 2010, and failure to remove his former attorney general after it became clear that the AG used public funds and other resources for a political campaign or gathering.

Others were ordering or conspiring to use armed police and ports police officers to shield the former AG from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him, and the secretive signing of a 25-year power purchase deal to Saipan Development LLC.

"The decision to impeach the highest elected official of the Commonwealth did not happen overnight. It was reached after months of discussion and lengthy review of the numerous acts of neglect and corruption committed during his term in office," Deleon Guerrero said.

'More co-authors welcome'

The House minority members met in the Senate chamber because the key to the Legislative Bureau lounge room in the House side of the legislative building where they usually meet couldn't be found.

A few minutes after their closed-door meeting, the House minority bloc invited the public and the media to the Senate chamber to announce the pre-filing of the resolution at around 3:30pm.

Deleon Guerrero said all other members of the House are welcome to sign as co-authors of the impeachment resolution.

He said they will formally introduce the resolution during the next House session.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said if the Senate acts on the fiscal year 2013 budget with amendments on Wednesday, then the House will need to hold a session right away. There are only a few weeks left before the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Cabrera, when asked for comment on the impeachment resolution, said every member of the Legislature has the authority to introduce a resolution or a bill.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), for his part, said he's appalled that every time the governor calls for a meeting with the Legislature to help address pressing concerns, members of the minority bloc either don't raise issues they have or only a few of them show up.

"The governor was pleading for help and cooperation from the Legislature. I think members should go back to their inaugural address wherein they said they will work together with other members and the Executive Branch to address CNMI concerns. And why did it take them two years after the massage incident or the ARRA contract to file this resolution? It's because this is an election year," Palacios said.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said he could not sign as co-author because he is chairman of the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee that is reviewing or investigating the 25-year power purchase agreement that is included in the articles of impeachment.

Demapan said he does not want to jeopardize the ongoing JGO review of the PPA and out of respect for other members.

'No one is above the law'

Deleon Guerrero said the more recent events involving former attorney general Edward Buckingham's "airport incident" and the secretive 25-year power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC were the "last straw."

"Using or instructing law enforcement personnel to protect a criminal from being served with a judicial penal summons only confirms what a lot of people have been saying—that this governor believes he is above the law," the House minority leader said.

He said Fitial and Buckingham's secret negotiation and subsequent approval of a contract binding the CNMI and its people to a multimillion dollar utility without proper review by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Public Utilities Commission and the Legislature "is just another example of his total disregard of transparency in government or the rule of law."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) echoed the House minority bloc's sentiment when he said, "No one is above the law."

"(On Monday), seven members of the Northern Mariana Islands House of Representatives stood up for that principle by pre-filing Articles of Impeachment against Governor Benigno R. Fitial. These representatives are responding to the widespread public perception that the governor has held himself above our laws repeatedly and that he must now be held accountable," said Sablan.

He said the seven lawmakers "have listened to the public outcry" and acted in accordance with the NMI Constitution.

"We cannot know what the outcome of today's action will be, whether the Articles of Impeachment will be approved by the House or whether the Senate, sitting in tribunal, will vote to remove the governor from office. But we can all take heart knowing that we have elected representatives who are not afraid to exercise their responsibilities under our Constitution and protect us all from the abuse of power," Sablan added.

'Do what is right'

Deleon Guerrero said instead of dealing with the crises and emergencies in the CNMI, Fitial "travels off-island to attend just about every conceivable conference or meeting."

Fitial is currently on a three-week trip to Hawaii, American Samoa, Florida, and Idaho for official and personal reasons.

"Our people are suffering. They feel abandoned and betrayed. Their sick cannot be treated, their retirement pension is about to collapse, civil service employees do not even have the protection and recourse afforded to them by law because the Civil Service Commission has been rendered powerless. The Supreme Court and our third branch of government does not even have a chief justice to hear appeals. And now our people are about to pay for a 50-megawatt diesel power plant that they don't need," Deleon Guerrero said.

Glen Hunter, a concerned citizen, said the seven House members "have done an amazing thing and something you should be very proud of."

"Surely you may encounter some backlash. Stand strong against it. There are many, many people that are so proud of you. Many that have not or cannot speak up. Although there may be some argument as to what constitutes a 'felony, neglect of duty or corruption,' it is very clear from these16 articles and the information contained, there is no question that Fitial has committed some extremely questionable acts," Hunter said in an open letter to the Legislature late yesterday afternoon.

Hunter also appealed to the remaining 13 House members "to read the articles and do what is right."

"Pass this resolution. Give the Senate the ability to investigate the claims. Some among you have said that Fitial is 'innocent until proven guilty.' This is true. I ask you to give the Senate a chance to hear Fitial defend himself against these charges. Should this matter go to public recall, he will not be given such an opportunity. It is immensely clear that the public sentiment is behind the impeachment proceedings," Hunter added.

In the 20-member House, at least 14 affirmative votes are needed to impeach the governor. Right now, the governor's allies form the majority in the House.

The nine-member Senate needs at least six affirmative votes to convict.

'Thank you'

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said for weeks, members of the minority have been receiving messages of support from community members to file the impeachment resolution.

"This is something that the public wants to do. We hope this will change the direction the Commonwealth will take for years," Sablan said.

When news broke that the impeachment resolution was pre-filed yesterday afternoon, the seven lawmakers received another round of calls and text messages thanking them for what they did.

Deleon Guerrero and the rest of the minority bloc also thanked those who helped in the preparation, review, and drafting of the impeachment resolution.

"We also want to thank the public for speaking out and encouraging the Legislature to 'do the right thing.' Lastly, an appreciation is also due to the media for reporting the actions of every public official and for promoting transparency in government," the minority bloc leader added.

CNMI voluntarily dismisses FICA lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government yesterday voluntarily dismissed its lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Treasury and U.S. Internal Revenue Service to stop the imposition of the Federal Insurance Contribution Act on Filipino and Korean workers with Commonwealth-only visa or status.

Special assistant attorney general James R. Stump, counsel for the CNMI government, in the notice of voluntary dismissal informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the defendants have not yet filed an answer or motion for summary judgment.

Stump said the defendants have no objection to the granting of a voluntary dismissal without prejudice.

Stump did not indicate the reason behind the dismissal of the case.

A source, however, disclosed that the CNMI government and the defendants are negotiating to settle the lawsuit.

The CNMI government filed the lawsuit in January 2012. Also named as co-defendants are Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Internal Revenue Commissioner Douglas Shulman.

The CNMI is suing for breach of the Covenant and violation of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act. It wants the court to declare that the imposition of FICA taxes on Filipino and Korean workers in the Commonwealth with CW-1 (Commonwealth-only transitional worker) violates the Covenant and the CNRA.

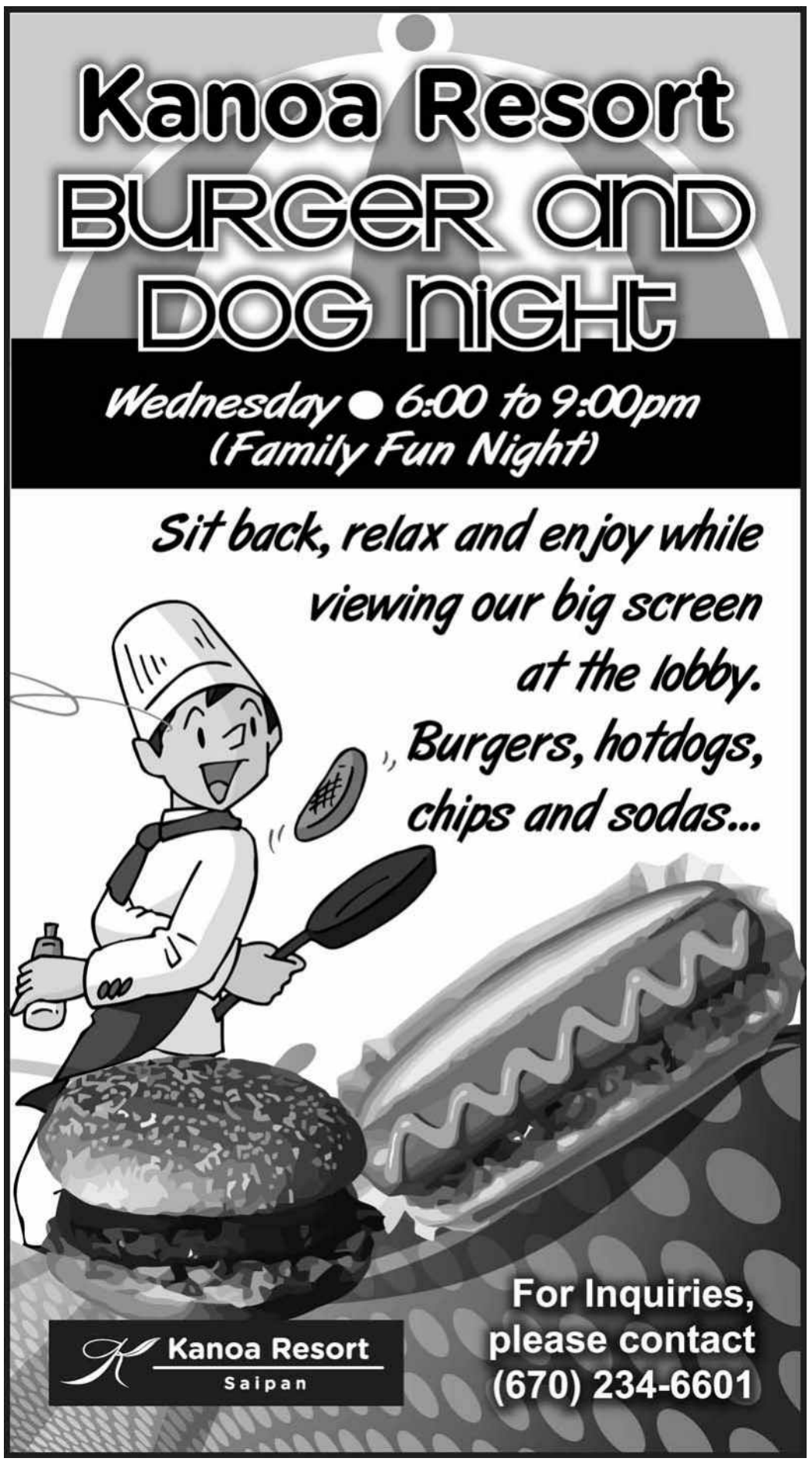
Stump alleged that the purpose of such exemptions was to avoid imposing FICA taxation on alien individuals who, due to the limited nature of their visa status, would be unlikely to receive benefits.

Nonimmigrant Philippine and Korean nationals working in the CNMI have never been required to participate in the U.S. Social Security System.

Stump asserted that the extension of FICA taxes on Filipino and Korean nonresident workers could result in the imposition of $24 million annually in illegal taxes on the Commonwealth economy.

FICA covers Social Security and Medicare taxes. Both employers and employees share the cost of paying these taxes.

The original deadline for the U.S. government to file a respond to the lawsuit was June 29, 2012. The U.S. government then requested for extension as U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division trial attorney Jeremy M. Hendon was then still reviewing information from Internal Revenue Service.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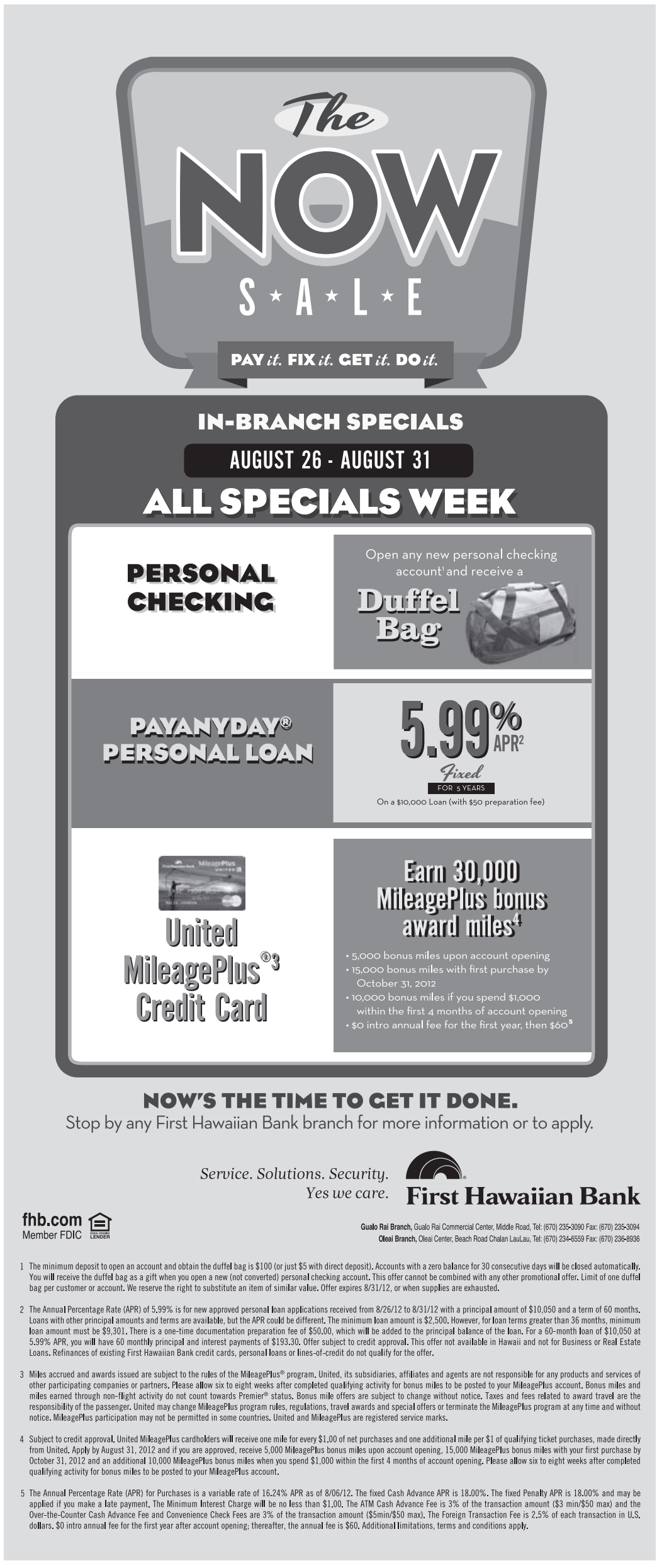
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3 Miles accrued and awards issued are subject to the rules of the MileagePlus® program. United, its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products and services of other participating companies or partners. Please allow six to eight weeks after completed qualifying activity for bonus miles to be posted to your MileagePlus account. Bonus miles and miles earned through non-flight activity do not count towards Premier® status. Bonus mile offers are subject to change without notice. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the passenger. United may change MileagePlus program rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus program at any time and without notice. MileagePlus participation may not be permitted in some countries. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks.
4 Subject to credit approval. United MileagePlus cardholders will receive one mile for every $1.00 of net purchases and one additional mile per $1 of qualifying ticket purchases, made directly from United. Apply by August 31, 2012 and if you are approved, receive 5,000 MileagePlus bonus miles upon account opening, 15,000 MileagePlus bonus miles with your first purchase by October 31, 2012 and an additional 10,000 MileagePlus bonus miles when you spend $1,000 within the first 4 months of account opening. Please allow six to eight weeks after completed qualifying activity for bonus miles to be posted to your MileagePlus account.
5 The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases is a variable rate of 16.24% APR as of 8/06/12. The fixed Cash Advance APR is 18.00%. The fixed Penalty APR is 18.00% and may be applied if you make a late payment. The Minimum Interest Charge will be no less than $1.00. The ATM Cash Advance Fee is 3% of the transaction amount ($3 min/$50 max) and the Over-the-Counter Cash Advance Fee and Convenience Check Fees are 3% of the transaction amount ($5min/$50 max). The Foreign Transaction Fee is 2.5% of each transaction in U.S. dollars. $0 intro annual fee for the first year after account opening; thereafter, the annual fee is $60. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
P.O. Box 501000 C.K.
Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce that the 2013 Title XX Social Services Block Grant State Plan is available for public review and comments. This grant is funded under the Administration for Children and Families/Office of Community Services under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

The DCCA Division of Youth Services is the mandated state agency to provide social service programs for children, youth and families throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Social Services Block Grant State Plan summarizes DYS' continuous efforts in promoting public education, prevention, intervention and development programs for the above population.

The Social Services Block Grant State Plan will be available for review through www.gov.mp website or at the Division of Youth Services Office of the Director and the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs in Capitol Hill during regular business hours beginning Monday, August 27, 2012.

For additional inquiries or assistance, please contact Vivian T. Sablan at Tel. 664-2559 or via email at vtsablan@gmail.com.

/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-008

TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM UPGRADE-ISLAND WIDE, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Traffic Signal System Upgrade-Island Wide, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 14, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, **Traffic Section Office**, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a *Mandatory* **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 31, 2012**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 12, 2012 to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the proepective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-008"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 18 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 18, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 18, 2012** and must be received no later than **September 28, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **October 3, 2012**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on **September 25, 2012**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty **(180) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the standard Specification for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-03

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

House reviews latest CUC and CHC emergency declarations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) referred acting governor Eloy S. Inos' latest emergency declarations for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to committees for review and possible amendments.

Cabrera

Some House members, including Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) and House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), said the House should not always automatically accept the emergency declarations but make time to review them and help address the issues.

Inos' Executive Order 2012-09 placing CHC under a state of emergency for another 30 days from Aug. 14 was referred to the Committee on Health chaired by Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan).

Deleon Guerrero said it is "very troubling" to learn that CHC plans to hire a chief executive officer for a small clinic in Kagman, instead of hiring doctors and nurses.

"I ask the chairman of the Health Committee to seek audience with the CHC CEO (Juan N. Babauta) on this," Deleon Guerrero said.

The CUC emergency declaration, contained in Executive Order 2012-10 dated Aug. 16, was referred to Rep. Stanley Torres' (Ind-Saipan) Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee.

Deleon Guerrero said now that there is a functioning Public Utilities Commission, it should be allowed to do its job of regulating and oversight of utilities firm and contracts such as those of the 25-year power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC.

Cabrera said he is tasking the PUTC Committee to review the CUC EO, and act on its recommendations whether to amend or not certain provisions including that of the PUC's role.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), who asked the speaker to refer the CUC EO to the PUTC Committee, said "this Legislature has continued to give the administration or the governor exclusive authority, exclusive power over not just CUC but also the power of PUC."

"The administration has basically stopped this regulatory body from making any decision on public utilities especially for CUC. One of the 'whereas' is about renewable energy crisis, just to find out the governor has signed an exclusive PPA to a company we're not even sure who they are… all under the table, inside the closet hiding and signing away, $190 million plus more," said Dela Cruz, a member of the House PUTC Committee. He is also chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said a review of the CUC EO should clarify, among other things, the administration's so-called "renewable energy crisis" when there is no renewable energy yet to begin with, and the signing of a no-bid, $190.8-million power purchase agreement for 25 years.

Besides CUC and CHC, the NMI Retirement Fund is also under a state of emergency.

CPA has positive outlook for new fiscal year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ratepayers and customers of the Commonwealth Ports Authority will continue to enjoy the same airport/seaport fees and other charges after agency officials announced that there will be no rate increase next fiscal year.

- Higher earnings projected in FY 2013
- No rate increases anticipated
- Employees assured of stable work hours and holiday

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and comptroller Derek Sasamoto disclosed this following Friday's board meeting. The two also described CPA's outlook as "positive" for fiscal year 2013 which starts on Oct. 1.

Sasamoto said that for FY 2013, revenues for both airport and seaport is approximately $19 million. For airport, forecast revenue is at $11.7 million which reflects about a 13-percent increase from the current fiscal year and for seaports, projected revenue is $7.5 million, which is an increase of 5 to 6 percent.

Because of this positive outlook, Sasamoto and Deleon Guerrero assured that the ports authority can maintain its compliance with bond service requirements for both airports and seaports.

This despite admitting that for FY 2013, among the biggest challenges in its expenditure is the increasing cost of utilities and the anticipated 10-percent increase in airport and seaport insurance coverage.

According to the comptroller, the FY 2013 revenue projection used the data trends, market, and information from airline companies in terms of anticipated traffic next fiscal year.

But Sasamoto pointed out that although the initial projection does not anticipate rate increases in the offing, "because of the turbulent and very unpredictable market, anything can happen" that may immediately impact the CPA operation.

"If we look at our performance every year, we've been improving every single year. Numbers don't like and it's a fact. No matter what we're doing, we're always cautious of our expenditures," he said.

Meantime, executive director Deleon Guerrero guaranteed that all CPA employees on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will continue to have an 80-hour bi-weekly work schedule with holiday and hazard pays.

CPA was approved 228 full-time employees for FY 2012 but it only filled 198 FTEs. The executive director said freeze hiring will still be in effect for new positions. He revealed that this fiscal year, CPA has 12 personnel who either retired or resigned from their positions and replacements are being recruited.

According to the executive director, "the change of attitude" of CPA personnel helped the agency meet its stable operational condition. He cited the employees' cooperation and better understanding on the internal austerity measures put in place by management.

The CPA board, early this year, approved a 5-percent across-the-board salary hike for its personnel.

Carryover clause now part of MOU between DCCA, USDA

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is now authorized to access food stamp block grant beyond its grant year after the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs had agreed to add the "carryover clause" in their memorandum of understanding.

The carryover clause is a new provision that allows DCCA, which manages the local food stamp program through its Nutrition Assistance Program office, to carry over and utilize unused federal grant funds until the next two years, according to DCCA secretary Melvin Faisao.

Faisao said the carryover clause will be included in the MOU beginning fiscal year 2012.

"The way I look at it, it's a three-year lifespan," he told *Saipan Tribune* via phone interview.

» Deal avoids de-obligation of food stamp funding

The insertion of the carryover clause was a result of USDA's decision to revisit the memorandum after it de-obligated $4.5 million in unused food stamp funding for the Commonwealth for FY2007 to 2011.

According to Faisao, the timeframe for the said funds lapsed, prompting the federal agency to take back the money.

"With the carryover clause, any lapsed funds realized this year will be included and projected into the next two fiscal years. Knowing that this particular clause is in place, it allows the western region office and the CNMI the flexibility to use those funds in the next two fiscal years under the provision," he explained.

Faisao emphasized that the new provision would prevent another de-obligation of food stamp money in the future.

"We don't want to repeat that scenario when we have all these lapsed funds which my predecessors have never looked at," he said.

Faisao said that any funds that are carried over can be used for the NAP's services and programs, including the electronic benefit transfer or the EBT system. The EBT system is aimed at replacing paper food stamps with more secured debit cards.

The secretary said in February when the de-obligation was announced that the unused funds were earmarked for the benefit system.

Faisao stressed that they are still working on having an EBT system for the local food stamp program.

"But first, we have to utilize the lapsed funds for initial assessment, on how we're going to come about in implementing the EBT," he added.

According to Faisao, they have to conduct an assessment on the eligibility of the EBT system as well as determine benchmarks that need to be put in place before implementing the new system—all of which are being consulted with the grantor agency.

"Consultation is still in the initial phase," he said.

Faisao added that there are various initiatives that DCCA is looking at other than the EBT system "to ensure that our programs will move on to serve the needs of our clients as well as instill barriers that may lead to fraud."

1 of 2 defendants in unlawful ID document to plead guilty

One of two defendants facing charges in federal court for alleged unlawful production of identification document is expected to enter a guilty plea.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week that defendant Yufeng Lin, also known as Mary Lin, signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Naughton asked the court to vacate the current jury trial date and instead set the matter for a change of plea hearing.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday ordered that the motion to vacate the jury trial is denied pending the outcome of the change of plea hearing.

Manglona set the change of plea hearing today, Tuesday, at 1:30pm.

The indictment charged Lin and co-defendant Xiuqin Weng, both Chinese nationals, with one count of unlawful production of identification document.

According to the indictment, on March 19, 2012, Lin and Weng, without lawful authority caused the CNMI's Vital Statistics Office of the Department of Public Health to produce a birth certificate for a minor child.

No other details were given in the indictment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Open meeting for K-12 comments tomorrow

There will be an open meeting for all members of the community to comment on the priorities for K-12 public school in the CNMI tomorrow, Aug. 29, 3pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan looks forward to hearing comments from students, parents educators, community leaders, members of the business community, and other stakeholders.

A representative of McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds will also be on hand to receive comments that may shape future research and technical assistance projects carried out by the US Department of Education, Regional Educational Laboratory in the Pacific (REL Pacific). For more information, contact Juan L. Babauta at 285-9033.

McREL is a Denver-based, nationally recognized, private, non-profit organization that is dedicated to improving education for all students through applied research product, development, and service. ***(PR)***

SVES parents, guardian orientation this Friday

San Vicente Elementary School will hold its parent and guardian orientation for school year 2012-2013 this Friday, Aug. 21, from 5pm to 6pm at the their children's respective classrooms. ***(PR)***

SBDC 'How to manage your business' on Friday

The Saipan Business Development Center training workshop this week is "How to manage your business" and will be held this Friday, Aug. 31, from 9am to 11am at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room at the Familia Building in Garapan.

Contact 664-3018 to register or go online at www.pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com. Registration deadline is 12pm on Aug. 30, 2012. ***(PR)***

CHC to celebrate silver anniversary Friday

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is inviting the public to join the Commonwealth Health Center as it celebrates its 25th year anniversary this Friday, Aug. 31, at the west parking area nearest to the CHC gift shop entrance.

During the celebration, dubbed the Silver Anniversary Event, healthcare corporation and members of the 17th Legislature will honor Pali' Jose Garrido Villagomez for his significant role in shaping the course of the CNMI's healthcare system and for his leadership in the Commonwealth Health Coordinating Council where he served as chairman.

In the early 1980s, Villagomez and the council were tasked to oversee the design and construction of CHC and the future delivery of healthcare of the only public hospital in the Commonwealth.

Today, 25 years later, the health and well-being of the people of the Commonwealth continue to be a priority at the healthcare corporation despite the extreme challenges impeding its progress into an agency that is independent of the central government.

"It's been a difficult year for CHC in this transition to a corporation," says CEO Juan N. Babauta. "But there are many reasons to celebrate...one year ago, we opened the doors to a brand new state-of-the-art renal care facility which significantly increased our capacity to care for patients receiving dialysis treatments. The new center and its new equipment has improved the overall care for these patients, who spend up to 12 hours a week in treatment.

"We're also very proud to pay tribute to Pali' Jose Garrido Villagomez for his leadership and foresight, without him CHC would not be here. And it's for this very reason, now more than ever, that we need to focus on the potential of our healthcare system as we reflect on where we've come from while keeping our eye on the prize. The prize being the best healthcare we can offer the people of the CNMI."

Babauta added that despite the current state of emergency declared at the healthcare corporation, dedicated members of the board, administration, and staff are banding together to come up with an action plan to see the hospital through these uncertain times so it can continue to offer quality healthcare "where the vision of our hospital's founders may live on," he said. ***(PR)***

Zacarias Sakisat, Jr.
PMB 637 Box 10003
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-5767

pro se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of:	FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0388
ZACARIAS SULIAL SAKISAT, JR., Petitioner.	**ORDER SHORTENING TIME AND NOTICE OF HEARING**

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner's petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on the 30th of August, 2012 at 10:30 A.M.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2012.

/s/KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

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*Some conditions apply

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FlameTree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

MVA to welcome 2 FAM tours from Korea, China

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is set to welcome two media familiarization tours coming in from Korea and China before the end of the month and in early September.

Marketing manager Bruce Bateman said that both groups will be flying to Saipan before heading out to Rota.

"The ultimate goal of these fam tours is for these agents and media that are coming to both cover the destination and ultimately develop tour packages where they can fly directly into Rota," he said in an interview.

Bateman

Bateman said the first group is set to arrive from Korea on Aug. 30 and will be comprised of five newspapers, three magazines, and three bloggers.

Bateman noted during the MVA board meeting Wednesday that with Koreans being "so wired" with reference to the Internet, the CNMI will benefit in getting exposure through the blog sites which get "hundreds of thousands of hits."

"Korea is so unbelievably hard-wired that practically everybody there doesn't just have a computer, they also have smartphones," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The first group will stay until Sept. 3, coinciding with the second familiarization tour group from China which consists of five agents, four media, and another individual to guide the group.

According to Bateman, transportation will not be an issue for the expected tour groups since they are both small.

"We're prearranging it well in advance and all will be taken care of. The irregular flight schedules that occur right now might be problematic for large groups of people. That's part of the reason why these people are coming out on these fam tours to try to develop products from these source countries like China and Korea to bring smaller jet aircrafts directly into Rota and help improve their tourism as well," he said.

Bateman stressed that MVA does its best to promote the three islands at all times.

"Every promotion that we do here doesn't just do lip service but actively promote Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," he said, adding that both tour groups will promote the Northern Marianas "extremely so."

Mt. Carmel School set to mark 60th year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School is gearing up for its 60th anniversary celebration slated for October this year. The school alumni, referred to as "AlumKnights," have been meeting to plan the celebration for several weeks now.

Among the activities in this year's occasion is a Eucharistic celebration and a fundraising banquet billed as "A Night with the Knights: Generations of a Legacy."

In a statement last week, it was announced that AlumKnights are coordinating the entire preparation which targets to hold broader reunion of former students.

Keiko Yamagata, co-chair for the planning committee and the school's business manager, is looking forward to the event. She is an AlumKnight herself from the Class of 1992.

"The AlumKnights are proud of Mt. Carmel School's rich history, traditions, and contributions to society and we will celebrate to mark its 60th year of providing high-quality Catholic education. We call on all Knights to help plan for this momentous occasion and to come together for the Eucharistic celebration and the all-class-reunion," she said.

As the school prepares for the celebration, it looks back on a long history of service in the community. The school was founded in 1952 by Father Arnold Bendowski, a Capuchin priest, along with the Mercederian Sisters of Berriz, and the parishioners of Mount Carmel Church. Classes during that inaugural year were held in the newly remodeled old Generator House of the Sugar Factory that once stood where Mount Carmel Cathedral and School stand today.

In 1957 Mount Carmel School opened doors for the only high school on island. In 1960 Mount Carmel school celebrated its first double graduation. Those high school students who enrolled in 1956 graduated from the 12th grade, while the first students to ever enroll at Mount Carmel School in 1952, graduated from the 8th grade. Since those early days, the school has expanded with new facilities, state-of-the-art information technology, and a standards-based curriculum with accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Since opening its doors, Mount Carmel School has cultivated some of islands' most notable business, government, and community leaders.

As elected officials, doctors, attorneys, teachers, and business executives, the school's alumni stand as inspiring pillars in our community. Many of the school's graduates also earn admission into some of the world's top educational institutions, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York University, University of California Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of Washington, and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

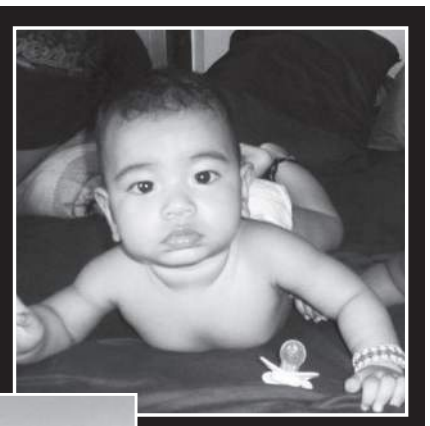
Over the years, the school has also developed a diverse range of extra-curricular activities that have led to numerous theatrical productions and championships in Academic Challenge Bowl, the Attorney General's Cup, Forensics, Mock Trial, and We the People.

The school invites all AlumKnights to help in planning for the event. The planning committee meets every Tuesday night at 5:30pm in the school's faculty lounge. For more information, call 234-6184 or email keikoyamagata74@yahoo.com.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Victoria Kiara S. Basa who is celebrating her special day today! May you have a wonderful time with all the gifts that life can send. God bless and we love you! Greetings coming out from Nina and family.



Happy first birthday to Kaelan Joe W. Kaipat. You have made our lives more enjoyable just because you're there. May you have the best birthday ever. Greetings from Grandma Stel and Grandpa Bill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advance happy 2nd birthday to Zunia Lieto who is celebrating his special day tomorrow, Aug. 29.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Zel Agulto. May you have many more to come. Enjoy your special day. Greetings from friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 28, 2004

Storm watch hoisted anew

Residents of the Northern Mariana Islands, still reeling from the vicious pummeling by Supertyphoon Chaba, wearily got to their feet yesterday to brace for another approaching storm. Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente placed the Northern Marianas under tropical storm condition III yesterday, which means that storm conditions, with winds of at least 39 mph, could hit the islands within two days. The National Weather Service said storm conditions might be felt beginning tonight. A tropical storm watch is now in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan, according to the agency.

Evacuees vacate elementary schools

Authorities completely evacuated yesterday hundreds of residents temporarily sheltered in elementary public schools to four alternative shelters, with the Public School System planning to resume classes as soon as possible. The number of evacuees in government shelters remained high at 990. Emergency responders began relocating the evacuees since Thursday, beginning with some 60 persons from Oleai Elementary School, who were moved to the Ada gymnasium. Yesterday afternoon, some 146 evacuees from the Garapan, Koblerville, and William S. Reyes elementary schools moved to the Ada gym, according to Jenn Castro, public information officer at the Emergency Operations Center.

Aug. 28, 2007

Woman fighting for life after stabbing rampage

A Public School System staff was arrested for allegedly seriously injuring his wife by attacking her with a machete, pocket knife, and BB gun at their house in Garapan early Sunday morning. Vicente Limes Laniyo, 40, who is assigned at the PSS food and nutrition service program, was apprehended for assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Laniyo is also a member of a local band.

Nov. bets draw lots for ballot placement

Precinct 1 Independent candidate for the House of Representatives Tina Sablan draws her ballot position number while Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan facilitates the drawing at the commission's office on Capital Hill yesterday morning. The lottery will decide the order of candidates in the Nov. 3 midterm elections ballot. (Jacqueline Hernandez) The order that candidates' names will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot was determined yesterday. Candidates and representatives crammed inside the Commonwealth Election Commission office for the lottery, which decided their positions on the ballot. Each candidate or representative pulled a number from a paper bag twice. First, the candidates went in alphabetical order by last name. This determined the order they would go for the second draw, which was for the ballot position.

Aug. 28, 2010

Nov. 2 election to include survey on Interior report

When voters go to the polls to elect a delegate on Nov. 2, they will also be asked about their position on the U.S. Department of the Interior's report recommending improved immigration status for foreign workers in the CNMI, officials said yesterday. This question on the Interior report will be on a sheet separate from the ballot. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial met with lawmakers yesterday morning on his proposal to place a non-binding question before voters during the election. Initially, the governor was looking at including the question about the Interior report on the ballot. But after yesterday's meeting, lawmakers and the administration agreed on a separate sheet for the Interior report question.

About 100 DPH personnel get work-hour cut notices

About a hundred Department of Public Health employees received notices from the central government yesterday, notifying them that their work hours would be cut by 16 hours when the new fiscal year starts on Oct. 1. Esther Muña, acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, confirmed that the department's Human Resource Office, division directors, and unit managers handed the 30-day notices to affected personnel. On the hospital side alone, Muña said that less than 50 are affected by the reduction-in-force. Based on approved FTEs, the DPH has an estimated 350 employees. Top DPH officials were also issued the notices.

Over 120 had rockin' good time in PIC Palooza

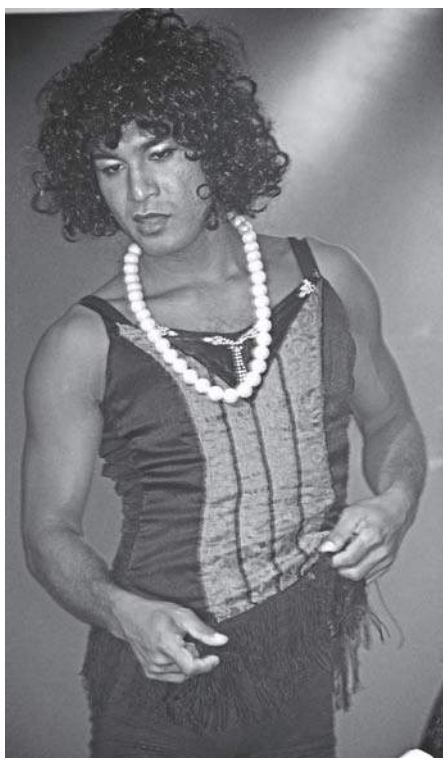
By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance extended its appreciation to Pacific Islands Club for hosting the 5th Annual PIC Palooza for their benefit.

Over 120 community members gathered for a night of fun and good cause during the annual event held Saturday night at Charley's Cabaret.

Tickets to the event were $25 per person.

Guests were dressed up to match the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" theme of the event which featured a delectable buffet, open bar, live music from PIC's in-house band, fun games, and raffle draw. Hotel employees also brought the house down with their performances.



Dressed in a woman's attire, staffer Ricky Padilla brought down the house.

Frankie Eliptico, MINA board vice chair, thanked PIC for their support to the community-based non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and conserving the Commonwealth's natural resources.

"We really do appreciate your assistance in helping us raise the awareness and more importantly, raising funds for our very young agency," Eliptico said. "All non-profits are struggling to raise funds and tonight's event really helps us out."

Established in 2005, MINA spearheads various environmental initiatives such as Adopt-A-Bin and Tasi Watch, as well as maintains partnerships with government agencies and private companies for better stewardship of the islands' natural resources.

Pacific Islands Club staff perform for over 120 guests who supported the 5th Annual PIC Palooza held at Charley's Cabaret last Saturday. The event, with the theme "Rocky Horror Picture Show," chose the environmental group Mariana Islands Nature Alliance as its beneficiary.

PIC's Glenn Policare hosts the event.

Dennis Tababa explains the mechanics of one of the games.

Photos by CLARISSA A. DAVID

A Japanese guest reacts after her team won a game.

Policare shows contestants their props for a game.

MINA board vice chair Frankie Eliptico, right, thanks the crowd for their support in the fundraiser, as executive director Sam Sablan looks on.

A female staffer smiles during a performance.

Wearing costumes, PIC's SEA department employees present a special number.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Step carefully to stop Iraqi double-dealing

Just when the U.S. and other nations determined to discourage Iran's nuclear aspirations were beginning to believe that economic sanctions imposed on that renegade republic were having a real impact, the Obama administration has acknowledged that those sanctions are being significantly undermined by—wait for it—Iraq.

That's right, the same Iraq U.S. taxpayers spent billions of dollars to free from the despotic grip of Saddam Hussein, followed by a few billion more to prop up a fledgling democratic government that could serve as a counterweight to Iran. (The U.S. government's earlier support for Saddam Hussein, you may recall, was similarly designed to keep Iran's anti-American regime in check.)

So why in the world would members of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government help Iraq's longtime rival, Iran, skirt sanctions designed to pressure the Ahmadinejad government by limiting its foreign trade and starving Iran of desperately needed U.S. currency?

The White House conceded that private interests in Iraq have helped Iran smuggle oil last month when it barred U.S. banks from any dealings with the Iraq-based Elaf Islamic Bank, which was flagrantly abetting Iranian smuggling operations.

Then, in a recent lead story in Sunday's New York Times, journalists James Risen and Duraid Adnan reported that the Elaf Islamic Bank was only part of a network of Iraqi financial institutions funneling U.S. dollars to Iran. Citing unnamed sources in both the U.S. and Iraqi governments, the Times said those profiting from such illicit transactions include Iraqi government officials close to Prime Minister Malaki.

On the bright side, some American taxpayers may be relieved to learn that Iraq's sanction-busting activities signal nothing more than the vitality of public corruption; sound strategic arguments support Iraq's continuing official hostility toward Iran.

But the practical impact of that corruption is essentially the same. The likelihood that at least some of the billions the U.S. and its allies have supplied to Iraq is being used to systematically undermine allied strategic objectives in the Middle East is enough to sour any U.S. taxpayer on continued support for the Malaki government.

Nonetheless, and despite the multitude of reasons to fault American hubris and myopia in the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, the discouraging reports of Iraqi corruption do not warrant a full-scale retreat into isolationism. Rather, they underline the need for the same unblinking vigilance the U.S. has practiced in Pakistan, Afghanistan and other countries that take pleasure in publicly identifying themselves as American allies while working privately to undermine American interests or succor America's rivals.

The curbs the administration imposed on Elaf Islamic Bank are an example of the tactics U.S. diplomats can use by which to drain Iraq's polluted bathwater without abandoning its baby democracy. Forbearance, after all, has always been a vital element of effective diplomacy, and those who are easily outraged by double-dealing had best find a different line of work.

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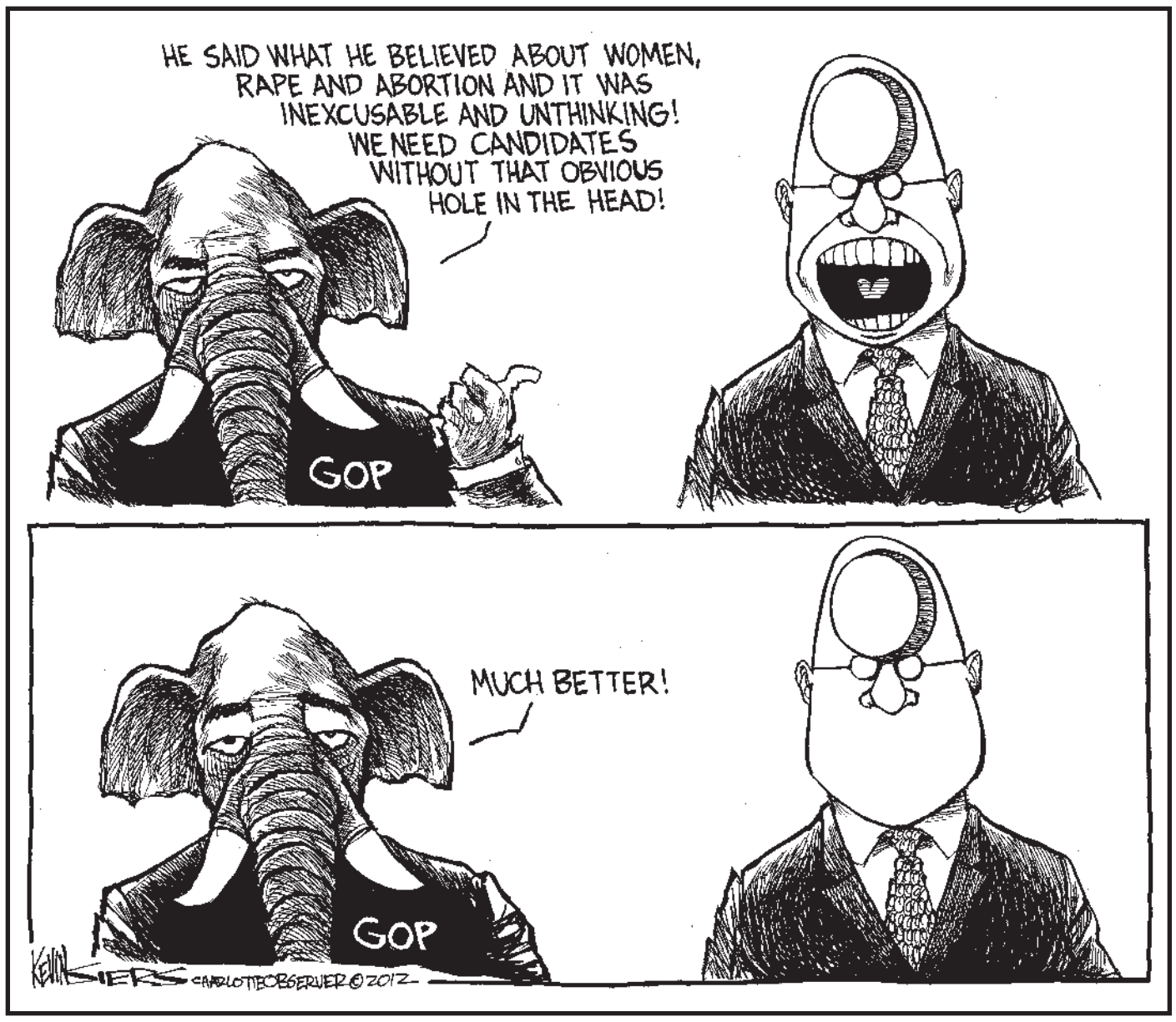

HE SAID WHAT HE BELIEVED ABOUT WOMEN, RAPE AND ABORTION AND IT WAS INEXCUSABLE AND UNTHINKING! WE NEED CANDIDATES WITHOUT THAT OBVIOUS HOLE IN THE HEAD!
GOP
MUCH BETTER!
GOP
KEVIN SIERS CHARLOTTE OBSERVER © 2012

Listen to what Iran is saying

By FRIDA GHITIS
The Miami Herald

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald.

In recent days, much attention has focused on signs from Israel that an attack on Iran's nuclear installations may be imminent. Amid the flurry of analysis, little attention has gone to what Iran is telling the world about its views. We would do well to listen closely. The world should never become jaded, immune to the genocidal hatred spewed by leaders of a nation that is still treated as a full-fledged member of international institutions.

On Aug. 17, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad proclaimed that Israel's existence is an "insult to all of humanity." A couple of weeks earlier, he told a gathering of Muslim diplomats that, "anyone who loves freedom and justice must strive for the annihilation of the Zionist regime."

Ever the optimist, the president explained that this would help "solve all the world's problems."

Global attention has lately centered on the news from Israel. Observers and analysts have posed valid questions about whether or not attacking Iran is the best course of action, and about whether Israeli officials are bluffing or are truly preparing for a new armed conflict.

Israel's plans, of course, are a legitimate subject of debate. But we should not take our eyes away from Iran, not just its actions in pushing ahead with its fast-growing nuclear enrichment program, but also its words, the rhetoric of its leaders—the men who set the country's agenda—for hints into their worldview.

Ahmadinejad is not the country's top leader. But that should offer little comfort. The views of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei are even more chilling. A few months ago, Khamenei declared that Israel is a "cancerous tumor that should be cut and will be cut." Then he pledged his support to anyone willing to participate in carrying out the operation. "From now on, in any place, if any nation or any group confronts the Zionist regime, we will endorse and we will help."

The rhetoric coming from Tehran is so extreme that it strikes against a western tendency to simply dismiss ideas that clash too violently against our own. There's just no place in our minds, in civilized society, to file the repulsive words disgorging from the Ayatollah and his acolytes.

In case anyone doubted him, Khamenei openly admitted for the first time something everyone already knew. "We have intervened in anti-Israel matters," he said, boasting of Iran's participation in wars between Israel and Hezbollah and Hamas in recent years.

If you want to understand the larger ideology, Ahmadinejad told Muslim ambassadors in Tehran that "it has now been some 400 years that a horrendous Zionist clan has been ruling the major world affairs," saying the Jews control "the major power circles in political, media, monetary and banking organizations in the world."

Now, where have we heard this before?

It would be pointless to note that if the Jews controlled everything, they might not have faced the, shall we say, troubles they have faced over the centuries, including the near-annihilation of Jewish life in Europe during the 1940s. But that, of course, is just a myth, according to the Iranian leadership. It's unfortunate for Ahmadinejad and his friends that they don't believe 6 million Jews were killed, since they would surely derive a great deal of joy from that thoroughly and conclusively documented fact.

The Iranian regime has emerged as the world leader in Judeophobic conspiracy theories and incitement. Verbal taunts, smears and calumnies often include vicious attacks and libel against Americans, the U.S., and the West as a whole.

Those who thought Ahmadinejad's words had been incorrectly translated in 2005 when he called for Israel to be "wiped off the page of time," have now heard ample and repeated clarification. That was exactly what he meant.

When combined with Tehran's defiance of calls to stop enriching uranium and pushing forward its nuclear program on many fronts, the words take on added significance. It's worth remembering that in Khamenei's "Israel is a cancer" speech he also vowed that "the hegemony of Iran will be promoted."

That's why Iran's Arab neighbors want Tehran stopped.

The question, of course, is what to do about all this. The thought of another war in the Middle East is sickening. But the idea of this regime becoming even more powerful is just as terrifying, perhaps more. Pity the people, in Washington and Jerusalem, who have to make the call. If they get it wrong, the costs will be unimaginable.

As we ponder the choices, let's keep listening to Iran's leaders. Their words as much as their actions should guide the decision.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A house divided by politics

I had intended to stop writing about the delegate election only because I have family that I must think about who don't deserve the embarrassment of the slanderous attacks on my character. But after being strongly encouraged by a highly respected priest to "keep it up, there is too much anger and revenge in our society"—so I'm BACKKK!

The slander does not bother me anyway after putting my life on the line in the Civil Rights Movement when we used to chant "sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never harm me" from the use of the N word and worse. I won't dignify the slanderous attempts by trying to explain anything. As for the people responsible for the slanderous attacks on me, I'm sure voters could see through their hate and vengeance but I have chosen to "forgive them all, for they know not what they do"—a way to always win with love, something I learned from Jesus Christ. So let them who have not sinned cast the first stone so voters will see and remember their disdain behavior. FYI, a person's character is not measured by something 30 plus years in the past that was OK'd for me to teach and to even be considered for commissioner. Character is determined by what we have become and the children we have raised, so I'm very confident that my family, most of our society, and God is pleased with the end results.

As for the delegate election, one of President Lincoln's most famous quotes was "a house divided cannot stand" as he was referencing the pending Civil War. Just think if he didn't believe in the unity of America because a divided America, including the CNMI, would be very different places today. My fears for voters being permanently divided into splinter groups appears to be coming true after a decade or more of promoting one people, one direction. I have said it on more than one occasion that it going to take Devine Intervention to save voters from themselves to fix the CNMI. *We have met the enemy and he is us*, a 1950 Political Book collection of events.

How can we be brothers and sisters on Sunday and sworn enemies on Monday? Too many voters just don't get it and some don't even want to be one people! With four parties and a host of independents, the CNMI has become so divided by our leaders who are now encapsulating voters into their fighting with the governor they may never see the light in this generation. The governor's opponents have re-introduced the ugly character assassination approach to our politics will do any and everything against the governor and to hell with the consequences for the people. Our job as voters is to publicly "vet/debate" the candidates, not me but anti-Fitial supporters are vetting me because I pose one of the biggest threats, as the truth I have shared about both candidates cannot be disputed—so they try to kill the messenger.

The disenfranchised leaders dividing up the people must learn to keep it real. Like it or not we must give governor Fitial his due credit because he has simply out done many of the politicians in our government which is why they are so angry wanting revenge. I'm not saying he was right on everything but I will say he has proven to be the superior politician among the entire crew—so grow up fellows, take it like a man and stop pulling voters into your personal fight. The governor has continued to win and come out on top in the face of adversity and now he just won again and made his opposition and our media outlets look silly with a failed impeachment and a good power deal. The media and all of us need to exercise more caution before passing judgment and ready to execute the Governor or anyone in the news.

It has always been in voters' best interest to let them fight it out on the Hill and not get all worked up with the impeachment hype. Unlike many, I have chosen to remain professional and to accept the governor as our leader and to try to help the governor on something we agree on that is good for the people—a delegate with real voting power in Congress. To assert that everything the governor is trying to do is bad and that every person around him is bad demonstrates an evil ill-rational and prejudicial mind-set that can't be trusted for truth, fairness, and honesty.

I knew and even told voters the impeachment talk was more political hype than substance and the minority block knew even before they said it that they did not have the votes. So voters must ask why did they even say impeach the governor? The answer should be obvious—it was revenge by disenfranchised politicians who were politicking to get elected at any cost. Voters are being manipulated by their own anger to fight the governor.

These third parties are trying everything to make the governor look bad but in reality it reflects on and will cost the people. They tried to get the federal government involved in a state matter which has only served to make the entire CNMI look bad in Washington.

History should have taught us with the ARRA controversy of Mr. Ada, the federal government is not in a hurry to clean up a territory's mess so don't expect the feds to get in this and remember, those who don't learn the lessons taught by history are doomed to repeat them.

Yes, they may have hurt the governor's efforts but we the people will bear the cost in all future federal negotiations with a cloud of doubt hanging over the CNMI that we created in Washington! Be careful what you wish for, remember, the alien workers complained to the feds for help and they got a settlement but that same federal government sent them home and is sending all the remaining alien workers home against their will! Leaders and voters had better wake up and get a clean mind and open their hearts before we end up shooting ourselves in the head or heart by mistake figuratively.

I have total respect for the true independents who were brave enough to stand alone and not divide the people. But voters must send a signal to these third parties that we the people want power in Congress, which will also send a stronger signal for these third parties to return to a two-party system.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

Paalam Sec. Robredo

In behalf of Bicol Association in Northern Mariana Island (Bianmi, Inc.) and to all overseas Filipino workers in the CNMI, we would like to extend our condolences to the family of Secretary Jesse M. Robredo back home in the Philippines.

Our sympathy to our great leader and beloved servant, Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Robredo, for his untimely death whose integrity and dedication in serving our countrymen has been cited and admired for his strong and kind leadership that served as an inspiration to our people.

His hard work, humility, and leadership drew a lot of inspiration, appreciation, and admiration from all his constituents in public services is unforgettable.

He is a person of high integrity, sincerity, and sensitivity at work and with a very high sense of purpose. He was extremely helpful and generous especially on issues related to humanity, economy, and public service. In September 2005, when I went home to attend to my brother Jo's funeral service, who died due to cardiac arrest a day before the "Penafrancia Festivities" in Naga City, Mayor Jess Robredo came all the way to Merville Subdivision for my brother's wake and pay respects to our family. That's how simple he is before and at the time of his tragic death.

To all my countrymen in the CNMI, let us join our hearts together in pray for the eternal repose of Robredo's soul.

For and in behalf of Bicol Association in the Northern Mariana Islands, *Dios Mabalos Saindo Gabos Mga Tugang*.

Carlito J. Marquez
Bianmi, Inc. past president

Fighting inflation in the CNMI

Kilili, thank you for taking your time to hear my idea for federal legislation that could help the CNMI fight inflation by making on-line shopping and shipping easier/cheaper for our people. Let me explain:

Currently, many online suppliers will not ship our purchases to the CNMI. What we must now do to get our goods is to ship our purchases to a friend or relative living in the mainland (one of the 50 states). That adds cost and takes at least one or two weeks of extra time, plus the inconvenience for all involved! I have asked many times why there is this restriction not to ship to the CNMI. I have never received a logical answer to this question. The people working for the sellers/shippers do not understand why a USA citizen living in the USA (CNMI) is discriminated against by not receiving equal treatment by USA shipping laws. Most of the sellers use the U.S. Postal System to ship (mail) to those in the 50 states. Why not the CNMI?

I have been frustrated many times by finding items I wanted to purchase, only to find out that the seller will not ship to the CNMI. Even the process of ordering makes it impossible to get goods shipped to us. For example, the drop down bar in the addressing process asked for the "State" of residence, but the list does not include the CNMI (or any other territory of the USA, including Guam, American Samoa, etc.) This makes it impossible for us to order on line because the system will not allow us to fill in our correct address. Sometimes I even give Hawaii as my "state" and someone knows that Saipan is in the CNMI and the post office forwards the goods to me.

What do I suggest? Please pass regulations requiring companies engaged in interstate commerce and using the U.S. Postal System to ship goods to all territories, commonwealths, and other possessions of the USA. They should also be listed in sellers drop down bar for determining the "State" of address. The shipping/selling enterprise must be required to ship, using any shipping company providing that service, for example, USPS, DHL, Federal Express, etc. I am tired of being a second class citizen because I live in the CNMI! We need more competition in the CNMI to keep prices under control. As more companies close and leave the CNMI the ugly head of monopolies rises, inflation goes out of sight. We need your help!

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill

Let us pray

This started out as an open letter to our Legislature, but seems to have become a prayer. I do not know if our Legislators read their mail or if they read the news. I heard one say they did not know there are polls concerning the impeachment initiative.

I would like the CNMI public to say this prayer together. Has anyone noted the results of the polls? Open letter to all legislators. Today is our hour of need. The CNMI has never in history needed you as it needs you today. In the name of Jesus Christ, I beg you to stand up for democracy and the rule of law. Stand up for your island and impeach this governor. Forget your political parties and personal favors and remember the Lord. You can help to save this island paradise from total collapse and loss of all human values. Your choices in this hour of need will determine the future of this island and your families' future. Do not let politics overcome your duty to God and your country. God Bless you all, and guide you to salvation.

Jimmy MacMahon
As Lito

Shotgun approach

People of the CNMI, what do you think about Congressman Stanley Torres introducing his H.B. 17-317 to legalize 12-gauge shotgun for bird hunting.

In my opinion as a voter of the CNMI, I totally oppose his bill, why? Because it does not fit the picture. If there are ducks, pigeons, or sports for shooting then I would agree with the congressman's bill.

For example, like in the U.S., if fruit bats are not endangered species I would agree, but for shooting birds is a question for me as a voter. A shotgun is a very powerful rifle that if someone was to fire, the bullet shell would spread small round pellets in different directions.

If there are endangered species of birds on sight, for sure they would get killed from the pellets. Endangered species of birds are protected by both local and federal laws. If someone shoots and kills these birds then the person responsible, if caught, would be persecuted by law.

I was hoping congressman Torres, would have introduced a bill to allow only air pump guns for hunting birds that is legal to hunt. In my suggestion, air guns are good because it is a single shot. The congressman said it is much safer having the shotgun at home. My question to the congressman is that those guns that are legalized today are not really good and you don't feel safe at home. Congressman Torres, sorry to say this, but I think something is not right. Just like I said, it does not fit the picture. In my opinion, I believe the congressman's bill is not intended for the birds but for protection. My suggestion to the lawmakers, is please do not pass this bill for the better safety of the CNMI people. Please let's keep it this way, and by not legalizing all kinds of guns while it's not too late to regret.

In my own sense of humor, I would say I may not always be right but I'm never wrong.

Ray Agulto,
Kannat Tabla

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87 ° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°

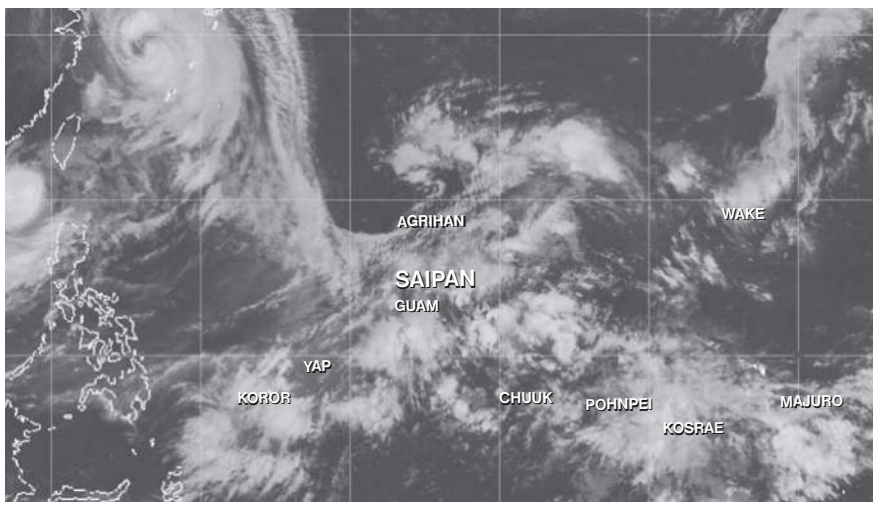
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲88	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼48
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲91	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲93	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼62
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Sunny	▲66	▼49
Miami	Rain	▲86	▼80
New York	Thundershowers	▲82	▼71
Osaka	Cloudy	▲92	▼77
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼59
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼69
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Seoul	Rain	▲81	▼74
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲91	▼77
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲90	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms southeast of typhoon Bolaven centered northwest of Okinawa at 29N126E are located north of 18N from 130E to 134E. A broad low-level circulation is centered about 7N139E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located between 1N and 10N from 130E and 138E within an area that includes Koror. A surface trough runs northeastward from the center of the circulation to the northernmost Mariana Islands at 21N145E. An upper low is centered at 21N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are in a broad area between 5N and 25N from 140E to 156E. This area includes the Marianas, Chuuk and Minami Tori Shima. A large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with converging trade winds are located over Pohnpei and Kosrae between 2N and 10N from 157E to 166E. Convergent east and southeast winds are also producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Majuro between the equator and 6N from 168E to 174E, east of majuro between 5N and 10N from 175E to 180, and near Wake Island between 20N and 22N from 164E to 169E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:09 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:47PM	2:35 AM
Wednesday	4:36PM	3:34 AM
Thursday	5:22PM	4:31 AM
Friday	6:04PM	5:26 AM
Saturday	6:45PM	6:18 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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Business

Apple jurors grappled with complex patent issues

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—The youngest juror, a 24-year-old whose favorite court attire was T-shirts bearing names of rock bands, chose a Beatles sweatshirt for Friday's dramatic unveiling of the $1.05 billion verdict in favor of computer titan Apple Inc. One of the oldest was a retired electrical engineer who, as foreman, signed the unanimous verdict that Samsung Electronics Co. copied Apple's patented technology for the iPhone and iPad. Among the other seven jurors were a homemaker, a bicycle shop manager and a U.S. Navy veteran.

The decision Friday by this panel of people from many walks of Silicon Valley life was one that experts say could dramatically alter the future of computer tablet and phone design if the verdict stands. But the case also is part of a trend that has accompanied an explosion in the number of patent infringement cases, especially in the technology sector.

Increasingly, these highly complex disputes are being decided by juries, rather than judges, and the juries tend to issue more generous awards for patent violations.

That has companies on the receiving end of successful patent infringement lawsuits crying foul and calling for reform in the patent system, but it also has some legal experts questioning whether ordinary citizens should be rendering verdicts and fixing damages in such high-stakes, highly technical cases.

"That's a great question ... and it's the subject of a fair amount of current debate," said Notre Dame University law professor Mark McKenna.

Deliberations in the Apple v. Samsung battle were far more challenging than most. The jury was confronted with hundreds of questions on a 20-page verdict form that was more complicated than a U.S. tax return. They had in the jury room more than two dozen electronic devices at issue, 12 patents to decipher and 109-pages of instructions from the judge on rendering a verdict.

"This case is unmanageable for a jury," Robin Feldman, an intellectual property professor at the University of California Hastings Law School, said before the verdict. "There are more than 100 pages of jury instructions. I don't give that much reading to my law students. They can't possible digest it."

"The trial is evidence of a patent system that is out of control," Feldman said. "No matter what happens in this trial, I think people will need to step back and ask whether we've gone too far in the intellectual property system."

Apple filed suit in April 2011, accusing Samsung of essentially selling illegal knockoffs of its popular iPhones and iPads. Apple demanded $2.5 billion in damages and an order barring U.S. sales of the Samsung products in question. Samsung countered with its own claims, accusing Apple of using wireless technology it owned.

The jury rejected Samsung's claims and refused to award Apple the maximum amount demanded, finding that fewer Samsung products violated Apple's patent than alleged.

The jury arrived at its verdict after less than three days of deliberations, far swifter than many experts thought in view of the many complex issues.

The foreman, Velvin Hogan, a 67-year-old electrical engineer, told the San Jose Mercury News on Saturday that the panel was methodical. "We didn't whiz through this," said Hogan, who relied on his own experience patenting inventions. "We took it very seriously."

German minister rejects more time for Greece

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's economy minister has rejected calls for Greece to get more time to implement economic reforms, saying in an interview Sunday that Athens needs to respect the bailout deal reached with its international creditors.

Philipp Roesler's comments to ZDF public television come after a visit by Greece's prime minister to Berlin on Friday, during which Antonis Samaras told German Chancellor Angela Merkel that his country needs "time to breathe" before it can make all the budget cuts and reforms demanded as part of its (EURO)240 billion ($300 billion) bailout packages.

"What the Greeks have asked for, half a year or two years, that's not doable," said Roesler, who is also the vice chancellor in Angela Merkel's coalition government. He added that "time is always money" and all parties had agreed that additional funds for Greece weren't up for debate.

Roesler, the leader of Germany's pro-business Free Democratic Party, has long taken a hard line on Greece. Last month, he caused an outcry in Greece by suggesting the idea of the country leaving the 17-nation eurozone had "lost its horror."

Those comments appeared to put him at odds with Merkel, who has always insisted that Greece should remain in the euro.

But his latest views on the need for Greece to stick to the agreed time plan for reforms were echoed by German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, who told a newspaper in comments published Sunday that "more time generally means more money and that quickly means a new (bailout) program."

Tropical Storm Isaac grounds hundreds of flights

WASHINGTON (AP)—Airlines cancelled hundreds of flights as Tropical Storm Isaac lashed southeastern Florida Sunday, with service not expected to resume fully until late Monday.

The airports in Miami and Fort Lauderdale were hit the hardest, cancelling 589 flights—the vast majority of the 742 U.S. flights grounded overall because of the storm as of Sunday afternoon, according to the flight-tracking service FlightAware.

American Airlines and its American Eagle affiliate cancelled 486 flights. The last American flight left Miami at noon Sunday. The airline expects to be fully operational out of Miami by noon Eastern time on Monday, said airline spokesman Matt Miller. American runs a hub in Miami, a jumping-off point for flights to the Caribbean and Latin America.

Overall, airlines have cancelled 184 flights for Monday but expect to be operating normally by late Monday, according to FlightAware.

Isaac, already carrying winds of more than 60 miles an hour, was expected to cross the Keys by late afternoon. The storm will likely pick up strength from the warm, open waters of the Gulf of Mexico and strike as a dangerous Category 2 hurricane somewhere between New Orleans and the Florida Panhandle on Wednesday, the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency ahead of Isaac late Sunday and urged voluntary evacuations for coastal parishes in the state.

Inside the American Airlines terminal in Miami, travelers craned for a look out of one of the doors as Isaac pelted the airport with strong rain and wind.

At Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, the check-in line at the Southwest Airlines counter was completely empty at 7 a.m. Typically at that time on a Sunday the area is jammed, mainly by people leaving from vacations and cruises.

Nation

Armstrong's small step a giant leap for humanity

AP

In this July 20, 1969 file photo, a footprint left by one of the astronauts of the Apollo 11 mission shows in the soft, powder surface of the moon.

WASHINGTON (AP)—When man first harnessed fire, no one recorded it. When the Wright Brothers showed man could fly, only a handful of people witnessed it. But when Neil Armstrong took that first small step on the moon in July 1969, an entire globe watched in grainy black-and-white from a quarter-million miles away.

We saw it. We were part of it. He took that "giant leap for mankind" for us.

Although more than half of the world's population wasn't alive then, it was an event that changed and expanded the globe.

"It's a human achievement that will be remembered forever," said John Logsdon, professor emeritus of space policy at George Washington University. Those first steps were beamed to nearly every country around the world, thanks to a recently launched satellite. It was truly the first global mass media event, Logsdon said. An estimated 600 million people—1 out of every 5 on the planet—watched.

The two historical events likely to be long remembered from the 20th Century are the moon landing and the first atomic bomb, said Smithsonian Institution space curator Roger Launius.

"There is no way to overestimate that significance in human history and he is forever linked to that," Launius said of Armstrong, who died Saturday at age 82.

Just as the voyage of Christopher Columbus split historic eras 500 years ago, so will Neil Armstrong and Apollo 11, said Rice University historian Douglas Brinkley, a specialist in 20th Century history.

"We may be living in the age of Armstrong," said Brinkley, who conducted oral histories for NASA, including sessions with Armstrong.

The late science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke wrote that the Apollo 11 moon landing was "one of the great divides in human history; we are sundered from it forever by the moment when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stepped out on to the Sea of Tranquility. Now history and fiction have become inexorably intertwined."

Since that day, there's been a common phrase: "If we can send a man to the moon, why can't we ... ?" with the blank filled with a task that seems far less difficult.

Armstrong's small step was that leap in confidence telling the world "if we can do this, we can do anything," said Howard McCurdy, a professor of space and public policy at American University and author of the book "Space and the American Imagination."

Despite Isaac's soaking, Keys residents laid back

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—Tropical Storm Isaac barely stirred Florida Keys residents from their fabled nonchalance Sunday, while the Gulf Coast braced for the possibility that the sprawling storm will strengthen into a dangerous hurricane by the time it makes landfall there.

It was on course to strike land on the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, a powerful storm that crippled New Orleans and the Gulf Coast and became a symbol of government ineptitude. Forecasters expected Isaac to pass the Keys late Sunday before turning northwest and striking as a Category 2 hurricane somewhere between New Orleans and the Florida Panhandle on Wednesday.

The National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane warning for a large swath of the northern Gulf Coast from east of Morgan City, La.—which includes the New Orleans area—to Destin, Fla. A Category 2 hurricane has sustained winds of between 96 and 110 mph (154 to 177 kph).

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal called a state of emergency and officials in St. Charles Parish near New Orleans told its 53,000 residents to leave ahead of the storm. Jindal also said he may skip a speaking engagement later this week at the Republican National Convention in Tampa unless the threat to his state subsides. Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley has canceled his trip to the convention because of Isaac, and Florida Gov. Rick Scott also gave up his speaking engagement.

ACROSS THE NATION

Series of earthquakes rattle Southern California

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Dozens of small to moderate earthquakes struck southeastern California on Sunday, knocking trailer homes off their foundations, shattering windows and rattling nerves in a small farming town east of San Diego. The largest quake, at 1:57 p.m., registered at a magnitude 5.5 and was centered about three miles northwest of the town of Brawley, said Robert Graves, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey. Another quake about an hour and a half earlier registered at magnitude 5.3. No injuries were reported.

Several killed in small plane crash at Lake Tahoe

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say a single-engine plane crashed shortly after takeoff from the South Lake Tahoe airport, and several people were killed. A dispatcher for the plane owner's company in Fresno, Calif., says five people were aboard. El Dorado County sheriff's Lt. Pete Van Arnum says the plane burst into flames upon impact late Saturday night, and started a one-acre fire that took more than 90 minutes to put out. He says much of the wreckage was destroyed by the fire, making identification of the plane and victims difficult.

Asia

2 traffic accidents leave 47 dead in China

BEIJING (AP)—A double-decker bus rammed into a tanker loaded with highly flammable methanol on a northern Chinese highway, causing both vehicles to burst into flames in one of two serious accidents that left 47 dead over the weekend.

The official Xinhua News Agency said 39 people were on the long-distance sleeper bus when it crashed and only three survived. It said the survivors were hospitalized, but didn't describe their condition.

The tanker had just returned to the highway after a rest stop when it was apparently rear-ended by the bus at around 2:40 a.m. close to the city of Yan'an in Shaanxi province, the official China News website said.

The bus had left Hohhot in Inner Mongolia and was headed south to Xi'an city, it said.

Xinhua photos showed the charred metal skeleton of the bus rammed up against the back of the tanker.

An official with the local Communist Party propaganda bureau in Yan'an confirmed that the crash occurred but was unable to give details and was unsure of the death toll.

In the second accident, 11 people were killed and another was seriously hurt when a van crashed into a truck Sunday afternoon in southwest China's Sichuan province, Xinhua reported.

Road safety is a serious problem in China. According to Xinhua, poorly maintained roads and bad driving habits result in about 70,000 deaths and 300,000 injuries a year.

AP

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, the burnt wreckage of a double-decker sleeper bus and a tanker loaded with highly-flammable methanol sit on a highway in Yan'an City, northwest China's Shaanxi province on Sunday, Aug. 26, 2012.

Powerful typhoon lashes Japan's Okinawa island

TOKYO (AP)—More than 75,000 households lacked power on Monday after a powerful typhoon lashed the southern Japanese island of Okinawa, injuring four people but doing less damage than feared before moving off to sea.

Weather officials had warned that Typhoon Bolaven would be the strongest to hit the region in several years, but its gusts weren't as powerful as predicted.

Disaster authorities reported no major damage as of early Monday aside from the blackouts.

Roughly 75,000 households were without power on Okinawa and the nearby Amami islands as heavy rain and winds continued Monday. Many schools and government offices were closed because of the blackouts. Much of the public transportation system—including buses, shipping and airlines—had also not yet been restored, officials said.

The center of the slow-moving storm, the 15th of the season, passed over the island late Sunday and was moving northwest into the East China Sea on Monday. It could affect coastal areas of South Korea by Tuesday, weather officials said.

As the typhoon approached Okinawa on Sunday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said wind speeds near the center of the typhoon were about 180 kilometers per hour (112 miles per hour), with gusts reaching 252 kph (155 mph), possibly equaling or surpassing past records for the area.

But public broadcaster NHK reported that the gusts measured on the island of Amami, north of Okinawa, reached just 140 kph (87 mph).

Okinawa disaster authorities said four people were hurt.

More than half of the 50,000 U.S. troops based in Japan are stationed in Okinawa. At Kadena Air Base, one of the biggest bases on the island, all shops and service facilities were ordered closed and movement around the base was to be kept to a minimum. All entry into the ocean was prohibited.

Bolaven comes on the heels of Typhoon Tembin, which soaked southern Taiwan on Friday, largely sparing populated areas before blowing out to sea again.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NATO force: Afghan ally kills 2 coalition members

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO forces in Afghanistan say an Afghan soldier has turned his weapon on international troops, killing 2 coalition service members in the country's east. Spokesman Lt. Col. Hagen Messer of Germany says the attack happened earlier Monday in Laghman province. He declined to provide details, saying only that coalition and Afghan officials were investigating the shooting.

Indonesians find bodies of 4 killed in plane crash

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Airport officials say they have found the bodies of an Australian and three Indonesians who were killed in a plane crash on Borneo island last week. Temindung airport chief Rajoki Aritonang says the Piper PA-31 Navajo went down Friday in rugged terrain inside Kutai National Park. Rescuers finally made their way through dense jungle to the crash site late Sunday. He said Monday that the bodies of Australian Peter John Elliott and three Indonesians were recovered and flown to a hospital in Samarinda. Elliott was the owner of Elliott Geophysic International, a Perth, Australia-based company that chartered the flight. The four left Samarinda on Friday morning for a 90-minute flight to survey a coal mining site.

Philippine foreign secretary meets China's Yang

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario has held talks with his Chinese counterpart in their first meeting since a standoff between Chinese and Filipino ships at a disputed shoal renewed tensions in the South China Sea earlier this year. Foreign affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said talks between del Rosario and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Saturday in Beijing covered "issues of mutual concern" and were "productive." The standoff at the Scarborough Shoal west of the Philippines' Luzon Island began in April after the Philippine navy accosted Chinese fishermen for alleged poaching. Chinese ships are still in the area. President Benigno Aquino III ordered Philippine ships away in June because of bad weather. Del Rosario told reporters this week they may be sent back after the weather clears.

World

Evidence mounts of new massacre in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Row upon row of bloodied bodies wrapped in colorful blankets laid out on a mosque floor in a Damascus suburb. Long narrow graves tightly packed with dozens of victims. Nestled among them, two babies were wrapped in a single blood-soaked blanket, a yellow pacifier dangling beside them from a palm frond.

Evidence mounted on Sunday of a new massacre in Syria's deepening civil war, with activists reporting a killing spree by government forces after they seized the suburb of Daraya from rebel control three days ago. Reports of the death toll ranged from more than 300 to as many as 600.

Video footage posted by activists showed lineups of corpses, many of them men with gunshot wounds to their heads. During mass burials on Sunday, bodies were sprayed with water from hoses—a substitute for the ritual washing prescribed by Islam in the face of so many dead.

The gruesome images appeared to expose the lengths to which the regime of authoritarian President Bashar Assad was willing to go to put down the rebellion that first broke out in March last year.

In an ominous commentary, Assad was quoted by his official media as saying his regime would carry on fighting "whatever the price."

"It is clear that was collective punishment," Khaled Al-Shami, an activist from Damascus, said of the killings in Daraya. "I am certain that the coming days will reveal more massacres, but by then others will have taken place and people will forget about Daraya."

The video footage and death toll were impossible to independently verify because of severe restrictions on media coverage of the conflict. However activists and residents have reported excessive use of force by the regime, with indiscriminate bombing from the air and ground.

"Daraya, a city of dignity, has paid a heavy price for demanding freedom," the Local Coordination Committees activist group said in a statement, adding that the Assad regime targeted residents with executions and revenge killings "regardless of whether they were men, women or children."

With a population of about 200,000, Daraya is part of "Rural Damascus," or Reef Damascus, a province that includes the capital's suburbs and farmland. It has been a stronghold of support for the rebels fighting the government since the start of the uprising, posing a particularly grave threat to Assad's seat of power.

Libya's interior minister resigns after attacks

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Libya's interim interior minister resigned on Sunday after members of the newly-elected parliament accused his forces of neglect when attackers bulldozed a Sufi shrine and mosque while police stood by a day earlier.

Saturday's attack on the shrine was the latest in a string of assaults on Sufi places of worship, sparking fears of stewing sectarian troubles in a country that is still without a strong central government and largely without a functioning police or military.

The official Libyan news agency LANA reported that Fawzi Abdel-Al submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Abdurrahim el-Keib.

The spokesman for Libya's security services, Abdel-Moneim al-Hurr, said Sunday that the interior minister's resignation had been accepted by both the prime minister and parliament.

Adding to the tension, a security official told The Associated Press that after lawmakers spoke out against the security forces' inaction, Tripoli's police and militias who work together as part of a security committee were ordered by their superiors to withdraw from the streets. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

LANA also reported that the elected national assembly, or parliament, called upon the security committee to ignore orders to stop work and to instead continue "serving the homeland."

Witnesses and an Associated Press reporter said security forces were visibly absent from the streets of Tripoli on Sunday.

Late Sunday, security spokesman al-Hurr said that 17 people had been arrested in connection with the desecration of the Sufi shrine. He also denied that security forces were ordered off the streets.

The turmoil comes after attacks by ultraconservative Muslim hardliners against religious shrines across the country. Saturday's bulldozing of a Tripoli Sufi shrine and a mosque with tombs inside came a day after hardliners in the city of Zliten bulldozed a more than 500-year-old shrine and library. Similar attacks have taken place over the past months in other cities and at least twice before in Tripoli.

The campaign appears to be aimed mainly at shrines revered by Sufis, a mystical Muslim order whose members often pray over the tombs of revered saints and ask for blessings or intervention to bring success, marriage or other desired outcomes. Hard-line Salafi Muslims deem the practice offensive because they consider worshipping over graves to be idolatry.

WORLD BRIEFS

Survivors: strong gas odor before Venezuela blast

PUNTO FIJO, Venezuela (AP)—After nightfall on Friday, as red lights began glowing atop the massive Amuay refinery in western Venezuela, the odor of sulfur made its way through the surrounding neighborhood of working-class homes and small shops. Francisco Gonzalez, a stocky accountant with dark hair, noticed the smell after 7 p.m. as he climbed the stairs to his second-story apartment across the street from the refinery. He had smelled the fumes from gas leaks many times before, so he didn't think much about it as he shut the door. Six hours later, disaster struck. A powerful explosion ripped through the neighborhood and engulfed part of the refinery in flames, killing at least 39 people and injuring more than 80 in Venezuela's deadliest refinery blast ever. "The first thing I saw was that the apartment didn't have windows or doors or walls, just a floor and a roof," Gonzalez said. "I don't know how we survived."

Hispaniola death toll from Isaac climbs to 10

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haitians began to dig themselves out of the mud on Sunday, one day after Tropical Storm Isaac doused the Caribbean nation and killed eight people here and another two in neighboring Dominican Republic. With a reported total of 10 deaths for the island of Hispaniola, which is shared by the two countries, the scale of devastation was less than many people had feared. But the capital and countryside of disaster-prone Haiti did suffer sporadic flooding, fallen poles and scores of toppled tents that housed people who lost their homes in the massive 2010 earthquake.

Focus

To hero-astronaut Armstrong, moonwalk 'just' a job

CINCINNATI (AP)—Neil Armstrong made "one giant leap for mankind" with a small step onto the moon.

He commanded the historic landing of the Apollo 11 spacecraft on the moon July 20, 1969, capping the most daring of the 20th century's scientific expeditions and becoming the first man to walk on the moon.

His first words after the feat are etched in history books and the memories of the spellbound millions who heard them in a live broadcast.

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Armstrong said. He insisted later that he had said "a" before man, but said he, too, couldn't hear it in the version that went to the world.

Armstrong, who had bypass surgery earlier this month, died Saturday at age 82 from what his family said were complications of heart procedures. His family didn't say where he died; he had lived in suburban Cincinnati.

He was "a reluctant American hero who always believed he was just doing his job," his family said in a statement.

The moonwalk marked America's victory in the Cold War space race that began Oct. 4, 1957, with the launch of the Soviet Union's Sputnik 1, a 184-pound satellite that sent shock waves around the world. The accomplishment fulfilled a commitment President John F. Kennedy made for the nation to put a man on the moon before the end of 1960s.

Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin spent nearly three hours walking on the lunar surface, collecting samples, conducting experiments and taking photographs.

"The sights were simply magnificent, beyond any visual experience that I had ever been exposed to," Armstrong once said.

In those first few moments on the moon, Armstrong stopped in what he called "a tender moment" and left a patch to commemorate NASA astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts who had died in action.

Although he had been a Navy fighter pilot, a test pilot for NASA's forerunner and an astronaut, the modest Armstrong never allowed himself to be caught up in the celebrity and glamour of the space program.

"I am, and ever will be, a white socks, pocket protector, nerdy engineer," he said in 2000 in one of his rare public appearances. "And I take a substantial amount of pride in the accomplishments of my profession."

Rice University historian Douglas Brinkley, who interviewed Armstrong for NASA's oral history project, said Armstrong fit every requirement the space agency needed for the first man to walk on moon, especially because of his engineering skills and the way he handled celebrity by shunning it.

"I think his genius was in his reclusiveness," said Brinkley. "He was the ultimate hero in an era of corruptible men."

Fellow Ohioan and astronaut John Glenn, one of Armstrong's closest friends, recalled Saturday how Armstrong was on low fuel when he finally brought the lunar module Eagle down on the Sea of Tranquility.

"That showed a dedication to what he was doing that was admirable," Glenn said.

A man who kept away from cameras, Armstrong went public in 2010 with his concerns about President Barack Obama's space policy that shifted attention away from a return to the moon and emphasized private companies developing spaceships. He testified before Congress, and in an email to The Associated Press, Armstrong said he had "substantial reservations."

Along with more than two dozen Apollo-era veterans, he signed a letter calling the plan a "misguided proposal that forces NASA out of human space operations for the foreseeable future."

Armstrong was among the greatest of American heroes, Obama said in a statement.

"When he and his fellow crew members lifted off aboard Apollo 11 in 1969, they carried with them the aspirations of an entire nation. They set out to show the world that the American spirit can see beyond what seems unimaginable—that with enough drive and ingenuity, anything is possible," Obama said.

Obama's Republican opponent Mitt Romney echoed those sentiments, calling Armstrong an American hero whose passion for space, science and discovery will inspire him for the rest of his life.

"With courage unmeasured and unbounded love for his country, he walked where man had never walked before. The moon will miss its first son of earth," Romney said.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden recalled Armstrong's grace and humility.

"As long as there are history books, Neil Armstrong will be included in them, remembered for taking humankind's first small step on a world beyond our own," Bolden said in a statement.

Armstrong's modesty and self-effacing manner never faded.

When he appeared in Dayton in 2003 to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of powered flight, he bounded onto a stage before a packed baseball stadium. But he spoke for only a few seconds, did not mention the moon, and quickly ducked out of the spotlight.

He later joined Glenn, by then a senator, to lay wreaths on the graves of Wilbur and Orville Wright. Glenn introduced Armstrong and noted that day was the 34th anniversary of his moonwalk.

"Thank you, John. Thirty-four years?" Armstrong quipped, as if he hadn't given it a thought.

At another joint appearance, Glenn commented: "To this day, he's the one person on earth I'm truly, truly envious of."

Armstrong's moonwalk capped a series of accomplishments that included piloting the X-15 rocket plane and making the first space docking during the Gemini 8 mission, which included a successful emergency splashdown.

In the years afterward, Armstrong retreated to the quiet of the classroom and his southwestern Ohio farm. In an Australian interview earlier this year, Armstrong acknowledged that "now and then I miss the excitement about being in the cockpit of an airplane and doing new things."

Glenn, who went through jungle training in Panama with Armstrong as part of the astronaut program, described him as "exceptionally brilliant" with technical matters but "rather retiring, doesn't like to be thrust into the limelight much."

The 1969 landing met an audacious deadline that President Kennedy had set in May 1961, shortly after Alan Shepard became the first American in space with a 15-minute suborbital flight. (Soviet cosmonaut Yuri A. Gagarin had orbited the Earth and beaten the U.S. into space the previous month.)

"I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before the decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth," Kennedy had said. "No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind, or more important to the long-range exploration of space; and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish."

The end-of-decade goal was met with more than five months to spare. "Houston: Tranquility Base here," Armstrong radioed after the spacecraft settled onto the moon. "The Eagle has landed."

"Roger, Tranquility," Apollo astronaut Charles Duke radioed back from Mission Control. "We copy you on the ground. You've got a bunch of guys about to turn blue. We're breathing again. Thanks a lot."

The third astronaut on the mission, Michael Collins, circled the moon in the mother ship Columbia 60 miles overhead while Armstrong and Aldrin went to the moon's surface.

"He was the best, and I will miss him terribly," Collins said through NASA.

In all, 12 American astronauts walked on the moon before the last moon mission in 1972.

For Americans, reaching the moon provided uplift and respite from the Vietnam War, from strife in the Middle East, from the startling news just a few days earlier that a young woman had drowned in a car driven off a wooden bridge on Chappaquiddick Island by Sen. Edward Kennedy. The landing occurred as organizers were gearing up for Woodstock, the legendary three-day rock festival on a farm in the Catskills of New York.

Armstrong was born Aug. 5, 1930, on a farm near Wapakoneta in western Ohio. He took his first airplane ride at age 6 and developed a fascination with aviation that prompted him to build model airplanes and conduct experiments in a homemade wind tunnel.

As a boy, he worked at a pharmacy and took flying lessons. He was licensed to fly at 16, before he got his driver's license.

Armstrong enrolled in Purdue University to study aeronautical engineering but was called to duty with the U.S. Navy in 1949 and flew 78 combat missions in Korea.

After the war, Armstrong finished his degree from Purdue and later earned a master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Southern California. He became a test pilot with what evolved into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, flying more than 200 kinds of aircraft from gliders to jets.

Armstrong was accepted into NASA's second astronaut class in 1962 - the first, including Glenn, was chosen in 1959. He commanded the Gemini 8 mission in 1966, bringing back the capsule back in an emergency landing in the Pacific Ocean when a wildly firing thruster kicked it out of orbit.

Aldrin said he and Armstrong were not prone to free exchanges of sentiment.

"But there was that moment on the moon, a brief moment, in which we sort of looked at each other and slapped each other on the shoulder ... and said, `We made it. Good show,' or something like that," Aldrin said.

An estimated 600 million people - a fifth of the world's population - watched and listened to the landing, the largest audience for any single event in history.

Parents huddled with their children in front of the family television, mesmerized by what they were witnessing. Farmers abandoned their nightly milking duties, and motorists pulled off the highway and checked into motels just to see the moonwalk.

Television-less campers in California ran to their cars to catch the word on the radio. Boy Scouts at a camp in Michigan watched on a generator-powered television supplied by a parent.

Afterward, people walked out of their homes and gazed at the moon, in awe of what they had just seen. Others peeked through telescopes in hopes of spotting the astronauts.

In Wapakoneta, media and souvenir frenzy was swirling around the home of Armstrong's parents.

"You couldn't see the house for the news media," recalled John Zwez, former manager of the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum. "People were pulling grass out of their front yard."

Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins were given ticker tape parades in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles and later made a 22-nation world tour. A homecoming in Wapakoneta drew 50,000 people to the city of 9,000.

In 1970, Armstrong was appointed deputy associate administrator for aeronautics at NASA but left the following year to teach aerospace engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

He remained there until 1979 and during that time bought a 310-acre farm near Lebanon, where he raised cattle and corn. He stayed out of public view, accepting few requests for interviews or speeches.

In 2000, when he agreed to announce the top 20 engineering achievements of the 20th Century as voted by the National Academy of Engineering, Armstrong mentioned one disappointment relating to his moonwalk.

"I can honestly say—and it's a big surprise to me—that I have never had a dream about being on the moon," he said.

From 1982 to 1992, Armstrong was chairman of Charlottesville, Va.-based Computing Technologies for Aviation Inc., a company that supplies computer information management systems for business aircraft.

He then became chairman of AIL Systems Inc., an electronic systems company in Deer Park, N.Y.

Armstrong married Carol Knight in 1999, and the couple lived in Indian Hill, a Cincinnati suburb. He had two adult sons from a previous marriage.

Armstrong's is the second death in a month of one of NASA's most visible, history-making astronauts. Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, died of pancreatic cancer on July 23 at age 61.

Just prior to the 50th anniversary of Glenn's orbital flight this past February, Armstrong offered high praise to the elder astronaut. Noted Armstrong in an email: "I am hoping I will be `in his shoes' and have as much success in longevity as he has demonstrated." Glenn is 91.

At the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles on Saturday, visitors held a minute of silence for Armstrong.

For anyone else who wanted to remember him, his family's statement made a simple request:

"Honor his example of service, accomplishment and modesty, and the next time you walk outside on a clear night and see the moon smiling down at you, think of Neil Armstrong and give him a wink."

Neil Armstrong

First man to walk on the Moon

Early life

1930 Born in Wapakoneta, Ohio

Bachelor of Science degree, Purdue University; Master of Science degree, University of Southern California

Before Apollo 11

1949-1952 Navy aviator

1955 Joined NASA's predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) as a research pilot

1962 Transferred to astronaut status

1966 Served as command pilot for the Gemini 8 mission; Armstrong successfully handled a thruster control emergency during the flight, with the help of his crewmate David Scott

Moon landing

July 20, 1969 With Apollo 11 crewmate Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr., landed in Sea of Tranquility; remained on lunar surface for about 21 hours, with 2 hours, 36 minutes of walking on the surface

After Apollo 11

• Deputy Associate Administrator for Aeronautics for NASA

• Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Cincinnati, 1971-1979

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Source: NASA, Boeing

Overdrive

MCT

The 2012 Mitsubishi i, the company's first mass-produced electric automobile, is also known as the i-MiEV, which stands for for Mitsubishi Innovative Electric Car. The all-electric vehicle is small, but stylish.

Mitsubishi's electric egg is pricey, but memorable

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Let's start with this car's name. It's the Mitsubishi i, the company's first mass-produced electric automobile. In the rest of the world, it's known as the i-MiEV, which stands for Mitsubishi Innovative Electric Car. Neither name is memorable, but at least the second one makes sense in an unpoetic, corporate-speak way.

By contrast, the car's egg-like shape is wonderfully odd. What a shame that such memorable styling was saddled with an unimaginative name. But its ovoid shape is merely reinforces its most distinctive trait: It's an all-electric car, one of a handful on the market.

This four-door, four-passenger subcompact is tiny, measuring just over 12 feet long. Its short but tall body feels roomier than it really is, thanks to its large windows and tall roof. Legroom is acceptable for taller drivers, but still somewhat cramped.

The cabin is functional in its design and ambience. It has a Spartan quality, as if designers had to watch every yen spent. They did. Electric battery technology is spendy, not to mention fussy.

The one thing you learn is that batteries are like people; they don't like it too hot or too cold.

According to Mitsubishi, below 32 degrees, the i's battery pack recharges more slowly than it normally does, necessitating an optional $150 Cold Zone Package. By contrast, after five years in warmer climes, the batteries will retain only 80 percent of their original capacity. That falls to 70 percent after 10 years.

NUTS & BOLTS

Motor: AC electric
Wheelbase: 100.4 inches
Length: 144.8 inches
Weight: 2,595 pounds
Cargo space: 13.2-50.4 cubic feet
EPA rating (city/highway): 126/99 MPGe
Base price, base model: $29,125
Base price, test model: $31,125
Price as tested, including destination charge: $35,065

Maybe this explains why the test vehicle never recharged to more than a 70-mile range.

This sounds sufficient until you start the car and turn on the air-conditioning. This is enough to easily drop your range by eight miles, or about ten percent. But that's only if you turn on the air to a moderate speed. Turn it on full blast, as I did, and mileage drops 12 miles.

The first couple drives were marked by range anxiety, as I was unsure how my driving style would affect the car's range.

Mitsubishi advises leaving any "unnecessary dead weight" at home to extend the car's range. (I could make a mother-in-law joke here, but I won't.) Of course, they also advise that you coast down hills and not drive excessively fast, as that uses more energy. Really? I would have never guessed. Do they really think Americans are that stupid? Then again, maybe they watched "Jersey Shore."

Anyway, I figured that my driving style must be pretty typical, as one mile driven was one mile depleted from the battery.

Most of the time, I used the normal drive gear to extract the most from the 49Kw electric motor, which develops 66 horsepower and 145 foot-pounds of torque. When streets were empty and I was in no danger of enraging fellow motorists with an excessively slow pace, I used the Eco mode. This mode is meant to conserve energy, but it's so slow, joggers will give you a run for your money.

The car's electric battery pack is placed ahead of the rear axle, which Mitsubishi claims protects it in the event of an accident. Given there's no room to place them after the rear axle, it seems as if engineers had little choice.

Still, this is a car that has a lot of space for its overall size, but a fairly limited range.

Even though it's less expensive than every other electric car, the Mitsubishi i is a pricey commuter car for those who want to shrink their carbon footprint. For the rest of us, it's a curiosity, not to mention a precursor of what's to come.

Larry Printz is automotive editor at The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk, Va. He can be reached at larry.printz@pilotonline.com.

MOTORING Q&A:

Speedometers can reach stratosphere for a reason

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: What is the story with today's speedometer readings? Most new cars and a lot of used cars have speedometer gauges that go as high as 120 to 160 miles per hour. Why so high? Do they really go that fast or does that, for some reason, make the vehicle more attractive? I can't fathom going that fast with today's speed limits, nor would I want to. Our speed limit rarely exceeds 65 mph, so why the extended readings?

ANSWER: Why do you care? The oil pressure gauge, water temperature gauge, tachometer and volt meter all are capable of readings well above average/normal/routine—are they a concern? And, yes, many of these vehicles certainly can "go that fast."

A more specific answer is this: Many performance vehicles are driven well above legal speed limits at drag strips and racetracks around the country. A "track day" at a formal racetrack permits drivers, with the proper safety gear, to exercise their vehicles in a controlled fashion at speeds well above 100 mph.

Here's another way to look at it. Modern automotive technology allows automakers to deliver automobiles that can be driven daily to work, the store and the park at routine speeds in complete comfort with great safety and incredible efficiency. That same vehicle can also be driven in a competitive environment at a proper facility, providing enormous fun and great competition with complete reliability.

In the simplest of terms, automobiles are machines and machines are rated/compared/tested/chosen by their performance characteristics. The "performance characteristics" of today's automobiles are simply amazing!

Enjoy the ride!

Q: I have a 2000 Saturn LS1. The lights come on in the middle of the night and drain the battery. I took it to a shop but they could not find anything wrong. It worked fine for two weeks. I noticed when I use my blinkers, my high beam light comes on the dashboard. Last night the lights were on again. I got it jump-started the next morning and drove it several times that day, and everything seemed fine. The next day it was dead again.

A: Electrical gremlins—the automobile's worst nightmare—are hard to find and often harder to fix. The high beam indicator illuminating when you use the turn signals points toward the multi-function turn signal/headlamp switch on the steering column as the prime suspect. On vehicles with tilt steering, the harness for this switch is flexed each time the steering wheel is raised or lowered, which can lead to an internal short causing this problem.

If you can, determine exactly which lights come on when the vehicle is parked. Headlights only? Or headlights and running lights? Headlights only might point to the DRL (daytime running lights) relay or even a problem with the ignition switch.

An automotive electrical specialist might be your best bet.

Q: My granddaughter's 1996 Grand Am GT with standard transmission needs a "fuel return pump" and we can't even find that part listed after doing many searches. There is a fuel pump, of course, but a gentleman at the dealership looking at it said it was the "fuel return pump" and that none were available. The car is back at my son's now and it is a problem that needs solving.

A: This issue is a classic "failure to communicate." There is no "fuel return pump" on this vehicle. The fuel pump is part of the modular fuel sender assembly located inside the fuel tank. The only "return" component in the fuel system I can think of is the fuel pressure regulator, which controls fuel pressure by bleeding a percentage of the ready fuel supply back to the fuel tank.

If the car doesn't start due to no fuel pressure, check the fuel pump relay located at the firewall on the passenger side of the engine compartment. You should be able to feel/hear the relay engage and the fuel pump run for 2 seconds when the key is first turned on.

Paul Brand, author of "How to Repair Your Car," is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.

Life & Style

Anti-Obama doc highlights weak Hollywood newcomers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood may have run out of summer hits, but an anti-Obama documentary is helping to fill the gap.

Holdover movies easily topped the weekend box office again, led by Sylvester Stallone's "The Expendables 2" at No. 1 for the second-straight weekend with $13.5 million.

The weekend's new wide releases were overshadowed by "2016: Obama's America," which expanded from limited to nationwide release and took in $6.2 million to finish at No. 8.

The documentary is a conservative critique of what the country would look like four years from now if President Barack Obama is re-elected.

Released by Rocky Mountain Pictures, "Obama's America" nearly matched the $6.3 million debut of the No. 7 movie, Joseph Gordon-Levitt's action tale "Premium Rush," a Sony release that played in more than twice as many theaters as the Obama documentary.

The weekend's other new wide releases opened weakly. Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell's road-chase comedy "Hit & Run," released by Open Road Films, debuted at No. 10 with $4.7 million, and the Warner Bros. fright flick "The Apparition" opened at No. 12 with $3 million.

The weak openings are typical of late August, a dumping ground for movies without much audience appeal as the summer blockbuster season winds down and young viewers switch to back-to-school mode.

But with less competition from Hollywood releases, it also opens the door for surprise successes such as "Obama's America."

AP

This undated image provided by Rocky Mountain Pictures, shows an undated film clip from "2016: Obama's America."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "**The Expendables 2**," $13.5 million *($18.5 million international).*
2. "**The Bourne Legacy**," $9.3 million *($9.4 million international).*
3. "**ParaNorman**," $8.5 million.
4. "**The Campaign**," $7.4 million.
5. "**The Dark Knight Rises**," $7.2 million *($15.3 million international).*
6. "**The Odd Life of Timothy Green**," $7.1 million.
7. "**Premium Rush**," $6.3 million.
8. "**2016: Obama's America**," $6.2 million.
9. "**Hope Springs**," $6 million.
10. "**Hit & Run**," $4.7 million.

■■■

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada) for films distributed overseas by Hollywood studios, according to Rentrak:

1. "**The Expendables 2**," $18.5 million.
2. "**The Dark Knight Rises**," $15.3 million.
3. "**Brave**," $14.6 million.
4. "**Total Recall**," $13.8 million.
5 (tie). "**Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted**," $11.7 million.
5 (tie). "**Prometheus**," $11.7 million.
7. "**Ted**," $9.5 million.
8. "**The Bourne Legacy**," $9.4 million.
9. "**Ice Age: Continental Drift**," $7.6 million.
10. "**Rurouni Kenshin**," $6.9 million.

"Obama's America."

"It's extremely rare for a documentary to break into the top-10, but August can be a land of opportunity for smaller films," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "Also, there's the fact that this is a very conservative film. Normally, it's Michael Moore-branded documentaries, the liberal documentaries that make all the money."

"Obama's America" opened in a handful of theaters in mid-July and did strong business as it gradually widened to more cities. It jumped into the top-10 this weekend as it expanded into 1,091 theaters, leading all other wide releases with an average of $5,717 a cinema.

That's a solid average, especially for a political documentary. But it pales next to the king of political documentaries, Moore's George W. Bush assault "Fahrenheit 9/11," which opened at No. 1 with $23.9 million in June 2004, averaging $27,558 in 868 theaters. "Fahrenheit 9/11" went on to become the top-grossing documentary ever with $119.1 million domestically.

"Obama's America" is based on the book "The Roots of Obama's Rage," written by Dinesh D'Souza, who co-directed the movie with John Sullivan.

The documentary now has climbed to a $9.1 million domestic total, with prospects for strong business as the Republican National Convention unfolds over the next few days.

D'Souza said Sunday that "Obama's America" will expand to more cities in the coming weeks and probably remain in theaters until early October, likely followed by a DVD release in the homestretch leading up to the Nov. 6 election.

Conservatives probably account for most of the documentary's audience so far, D'Souza said. But as with "Fahrenheit 9/11," which drew many conservatives out of curiosity, the attention "Obama's America" now is receiving could prompt left-leaning viewers to check it out, he said.

In royal photo scandal, some see Murdoch message

LONDON (AP)—By letting his top-selling U.K. tabloid run photos of a naked Prince Harry cavorting in a Las Vegas hotel room, some say media mogul Rupert Murdoch was warning Britain's establishment that he could still shake things up.

British officialdom has largely turned its back on Murdoch because of the phone-hacking scandal that has badly tainted his media empire over the past year. So even though Murdoch's *The Sun* newspaper framed its decision to publish the nude pictures as a defense of press freedom, some observers saw the move as a feisty message from the tycoon.

"Not only was *The Sun* showing Harry's bottom, Murdoch was mooning the Establishment," said journalist Jane Merrick, whose article in *The Independent* on Sunday alleged that Murdoch personally ordered the paper to run the photos in a phone call with Tom Mockridge, the chief of his British newspaper unit, News International.

Murdoch, once assiduously courted by lawmakers across the British political spectrum, has seen his clout wither after his company was exposed as having hacked into the phones of hundreds of people to score scoops.

Allegations of bribery, corruption, computer hacking, and obstruction of justice are being investigated, and the scandal has prompted a judge-led media ethics inquiry that could propose sweeping changes to how Britain's press is policed—potentially subjecting newspapers to government regulation.

If *The Sun* was cowed, it didn't show it Friday, when it published the pictures of Harry along with a lengthy public interest justification claiming that the "the photos have potential implications for the Prince's image representing Britain around the world."

A picture of the unclad royal—clutching an unidentified woman—had already been bouncing back and forth across the Internet for the better part of two days. Newspapers around the world ran the pictures, but with the prominent exception of *The Sun*, British media largely held its fire.

News International has declined to comment on what role, if any, the 81-year-old Murdoch played in the decision to run the photos, but the mogul's Twitter posts suggested that, at the very least, he'd been following the issue closely.

In a message to a user who congratulated him on *The Sun*'s challenge to the royal family, Murdoch said he "needed to demonstrate (that there is) no such thing as free press in UK."

"Internet makes mockery of these issues," he said, adding that Britain could use some First Amendment-style legislation.

But the mogul also extended an olive branch to the royals, telling his followers to give the prince "a break."

"He may be on the public payroll one way or another, but the public loves him," Murdoch wrote.

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Step Up: Revolution

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Ryan Guzman, Kathryn McCormick
Drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis
The latest movie in the Step Up franchise aims for a politicized message behind all the flashy moves, but it could do with a lot less plot and a lot more dancing. In Step Up Revolution, the Miami dance group "The Mob" takes to the streets (and other random locations) to perform intricately choreographed routines with their own DJ, a camera guy who uploads their videos to YouTube, and a graffiti artist who leaves their signature behind.

Madea's Witness Protection

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:10	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:05	7:10	

Cast: Eugene Levy, Denise Richards
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis
A crooked investor (Eugene Levy) is forced to go into the Witness Protection Program and ends up having to live with the brazen Madea in this comedy-drama that marks Tyler Perry's return to the beloved character. Romeo Miller and Denise Richards co-star.

Hit and Run

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:00	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:00	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Dax Shepard, Bradley Cooper
Action • Rated R

The Expendables 2

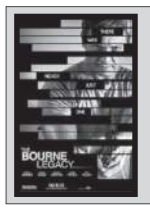
Friday		4:10	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:05	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:10	7:05	

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li
Action • Rated R

Paranorman

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Susan Dudeck, Donna Lynn Leavy
Children's/family • Rated PG



Bourne Legacy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

Total Recall

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:25	7:25	

Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel
Science, Fiction • Rated PG13

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Woman wonders if she hears the wedding bells man denies

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my early 40s. I have two children. I have never been married. Five months ago I met a fine man. "Mr. M." is in his mid-40s and was married for about four years in the late 1990s.

I am very much in love with Mr. M., and he has shown me how much he loves me in many different ways. However, he says there are no wedding bells in the future.

Do you think Mr. M. is afraid to make a commitment because of his divorce? Has a woman ever proposed marriage to a man? Is there anything wrong with it?

I have one more problem. Mr. M. likes to be all alone some days. And he takes long weekends to get away by himself. Is this common for a lot of men?

CONCERNED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR CONCERNED: There is nothing "wrong" with a woman proposing to a man; many women have done it. And yes, it is entirely possible that Mr. M.'s experience with divorce has left him marriage-shy. Since you are serious about him, pursue the reason for his statement that there are no wedding bells in the future.

While it's common for men (and women) to spend "alone time" and have separate interests, they don't, as a rule, involve spending long weekends away by themselves. Much depends on the nature of the pursuit that's taking him away, and how often he needs time to himself. If Mr. M. goes on an occasional spiritual retreat, I see nothing unusual about it. However, if he is a loner by nature—the person who will be lonely is YOU.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We have read about married couples renewing their marriage vows. My wife and I have been married 50 years and thought perhaps this would be a way of celebrating this marvelous milestone. However, the more we discuss it, the more illogical it seems to us.

We took our vows, ending with " ... 'til death do us part." Over the course of the marriage, we have had many wonderful experiences as well as some of the worst life can offer. Through it all, we have loved and cared for each other. There was never a time that we did not think in terms of "we."

We believe it would be an insult to each other to renew that which seems to be in good condition. Vows don't wear out. Devotion to each other becomes a way of life, to the point that life is unthinkable for each of us without the other.

We still find each other attractive, and sexy, too. Like wine, old vows improve with age and become more precious.

YOUNG AT HEART IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR YOUNG: You appear to have an enviable marriage, and I congratulate you both. However, some couples experience the same thrill from renewing their vows that they did in pledging them in the first place. Please do not judge them or minimize the reaffirmation of their love.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Over the years, you have provided me with insight and many grins and chuckles. I hope to return the favor by providing you with at least a smile:

Question: What is the name of Bambi's convent?

Answer: Deer Abbey

JOSEPH IN OVERLAND PARK, KAN.

DEAR JOSEPH: That's cute! I'd send you a buck if you needed the doe.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

On TV, a quiet exit for first man on the moon

NEW YORK (AP)—By the yardstick of history, Neil Armstrong was among the most accomplished men ever to walk on the planet that he looked upon from afar one magical week in July 1969.

Television news didn't seem to fully recognize the importance of the first human to walk on the moon on the weekend he died.

In the hours after Armstrong's death was announced, news networks were airing canned programming—jailhouse documentaries, a rerun interview with Rielle Hunter, Mike Huckabee's weekend show. Menacing satellite pictures of Tropical Storm Isaac had much more air time than Armstrong's dusty hops on the lunar surface. Talk of the upcoming GOP national convention sucked up the air.

A trio of factors played in to the lack of attention.

First, Armstrong died in Cincinnati on a Saturday. Not just any Saturday, when news organizations have a skeletal staff, but a late August weekend. Half the country is at the beach. It's not a stretch to think inexperience on duty might have played a role in NBC News' embarrassing gaffe: a website headline that read: "Astronaut Neil Young, first man to walk on the moon, dies at age 82." (NBC called it a staffer error and said the mistake was taken down after seven minutes.) His death came as somewhat of a surprise, too. Everyone dies, of course, and most news organizations have prepared material on hand to mark the passing of famous people. In many cases, though, there is advance word that someone is very ill, giving the media a chance to prepare and plan.

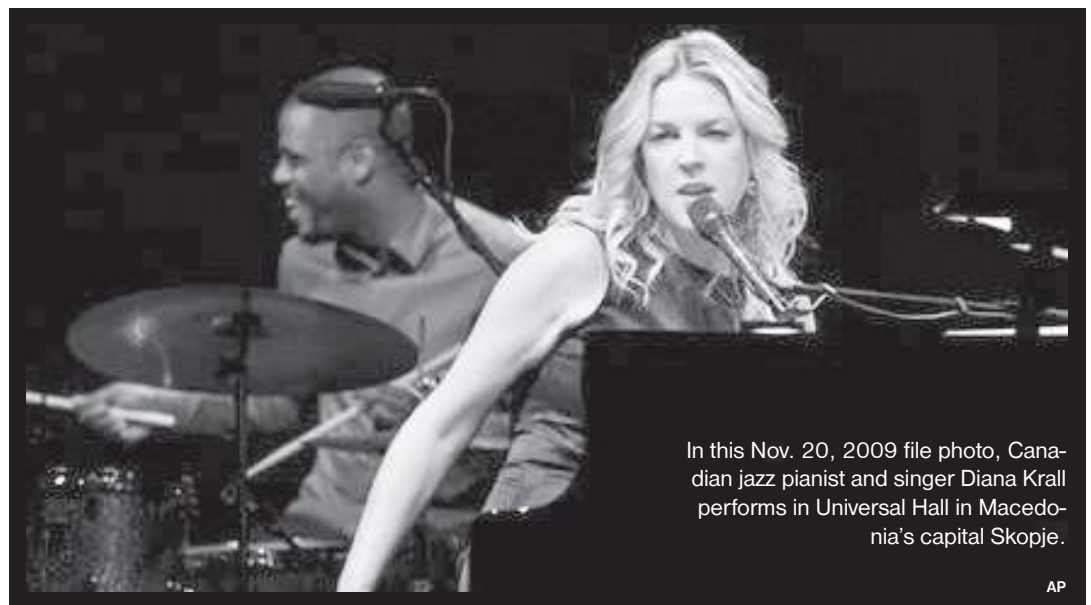
Armstrong's determined effort to live a quiet, private life after his astronaut days also left TV at a disadvantage. There was relatively little tape on hand to roll from interviews reminiscing about his experiences, reunions with old astronauts or public appearances. No Armstrong chats with David Letterman. No appearances in music videos. There was the moon walk, and not much else.

Notable deaths often give viewers the chance to reflect, to put into perspective lives of great accomplishment or great notoriety.

Not so with Neil Armstrong. His death was like his life: strangely muted given the magnitude of his achievements.

In this May 12 ,2012 file photo, former astronaut Neil Armstrong testifies before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation hearing on NASA's proposed budget and the future of the manned space flight program on Capitol Hill in Washington.

AP



In this Nov. 20, 2009 file photo, Canadian jazz pianist and singer Diana Krall performs in Universal Hall in Macedonia's capital Skopje.

AP

Krall plays 'Fly Me to the Moon' for Armstrong

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Diana Krall knows how to pay tribute to Neil Armstrong.

The jazz singer-pianist tenderly played the standard "Fly Me to the Moon" during a Saturday concert at the Hollywood Bowl.

She once was lucky enough to share a glass of wine with the first man to walk on the moon, Krall said. The astronaut died Saturday at 82.

"He's probably thinking, `Do I have to listen to that song again?'" Krall said lightly, after gazing up at the night sky from the stage of the outdoor amphitheater.

The musician, who sent her love out to Armstrong's family, also had a message for her husband, Elvis Costello.

She performed the classic tune "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face," changing the lyric to "his face," then said she sang it with Costello in mind on his birthday. The rock musician turned 58 on Saturday.

"Happy birthday, EC," Krall said later as she closed the concert with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, conducted by jazz man Alan Broadbent.

Snooki of 'Jersey Shore' delivers baby boy

NEW YORK (AP)—"Jersey Shore" star Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi early Sunday gave birth to her first child, a boy.

The reality TV star and her fiance, Jionni LaValle, welcomed 6-pound, 5-ounce Lorenzo Dominic LaValle into the world at just before 3 a.m. Sunday at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, N.J., MTV said.

"The world just got another Guido!!!," a Polizzi rep told MTV. "Nicole, Jionni & Enzo are doing great!"

MTV congratulated Polizzi and her fiance and looked toward the newborn's possible appearance on "Jersey Shore."

"We couldn't be happier for Nicole and Jionni on the healthy delivery of their baby boy!," MTV said in a statement. "We look forward to Lorenzo's first trip to the Jersey Shore and can't wait to see his first animal print onesie."

MTV has said it's bringing "Jersey Shore" back for a sixth season, with the 24-year-old Snooki as part of the action, but has declined to offer specifics on how big a part Snooki will play in the show about hard-partying Italian-American friends.

Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi attends a press event to announce her new venture, Team Snooki Boxing and the upcoming boxing matches featuring Ireland's Hyland brothers, in New York, in this Jan. 12, 2012 file photo.

AP

AP

This July 13, 2012 file photo shows Serena Williams watching her return against Chanelle Scheepers, of South Africa, during a quarterfinal of the Bank of the West tennis tournament, in Stanford, Calif.

Williams not sure if she'll dance at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Will Serena Williams dance at the U.S. Open? The Olympic singles champion isn't sure.

Williams caused a stir with her celebratory "crip walk" dance when she beat Maria Sharapova at the Olympics this month, but has nothing planned if she wins next month's Open. She says the first dance was impromptu. She adds: "I have to win seven matches, so we'll see."

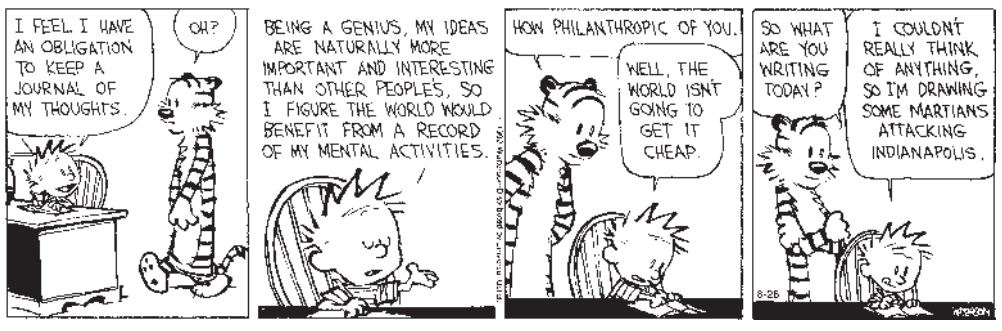
The Wimbledon champ joined fellow tennis players Victoria Azarenka, the Bryan Brothers and James Blake at Thursday's annual Taste of Tennis, where top chefs provide culinary delights in an event for charity. Blake brought his infant daughter, who was cradled by Williams.

Williams says she's still on an Olympics high. She says she and sister Venus plan to be in Rio de Janeiro for the next Summer Games.

Pastimes

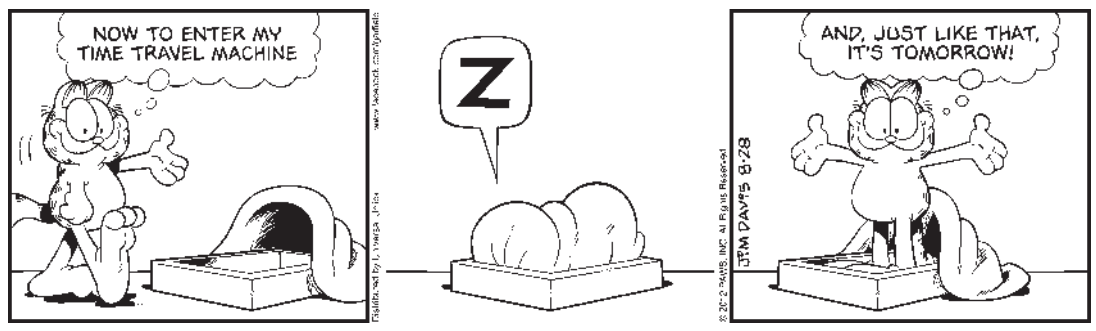
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I FEEL I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO KEEP A JOURNAL OF MY THOUGHTS.
OH?
BEING A GENIUS, MY IDEAS ARE NATURALLY MORE IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING THAN OTHER PEOPLES, SO I FIGURE THE WORLD WOULD BENEFIT FROM A RECORD OF MY MENTAL ACTIVITIES.
HOW PHILANTHROPIC OF YOU.
WELL, THE WORLD ISN'T GOING TO GET IT CHEAP.
SO WHAT ARE YOU WRITING TODAY?
I COULDN'T REALLY THINK OF ANYTHING, SO I'M DRAWING SOME MARTIANS ATTACKING INDIANAPOLIS.
8-28

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I THINK WE SHOULD GET A DOG.
YOU GO?
YES. I'M READY.
SHOULD WE MAKE THE KIDS DO THAT 'TWO WEEK IMAGINARY DOG' THING?
NAH. LET'S JUST TELL THEM WE'LL BE DOING IT ON OUR TERMS.
EXACTLY. WE STICK TO OUR PLAN, NO MATTER WHAT.
WHAT'S THE PLAN?
I DO THE TALKING. YOU JUST LOOK CUTE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THE BASE PRICE ON THIS CAR IS $25,000.
CAN YOU GO ANY LOWER?
THAT'S ROCK BOTTOM.
HOW MUCH IF YOU GET RID OF THE PASSENGER-SIDE AIRBAG?
HEY!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

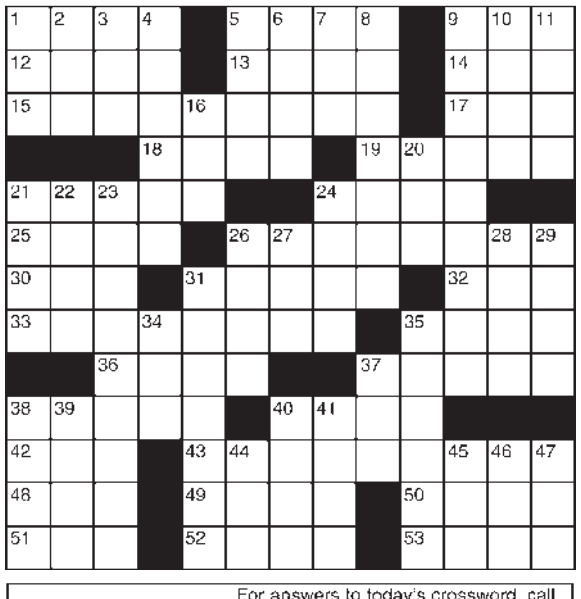
ACROSS
1 Assistant
5 Praise to the skies
9 Banned bug spray
12 A-line originator
13 Choir member
14 Playwright Levin
15 Went on a tangent
17 Weep loudly
18 Approximately
19 Makes less intense
21 Military group
24 Sandwich shop
25 Colors
26 Sightseers
30 Dadaist Jean
31 Debtors' woes
32 Take to court
33 Type of parking
35 DNA carrier
36 And others (Lat.)
37 Fragrant wood
38 Founded (on)
40 Ethereal
42 "Of course"
43 Talked over
48 Pirouette pivot
49 Great Lake
50 Architect Saarinen
51 Conclusion
52 Gridiron arbiters, for short
53 Anger

DOWN
1 Tack on
2 Midafternoon, in a way
3 Pooch
4 Mistakes
5 Highland girl
6 As well
7 Multipurpose truck
8 Walks feebly
9 Permitted to leave
10 Let fall
11 Filing aids
16 Before
20 "The Greatest"
21 Bloke
22 Emanation
23 Sad
24 Boring
26 Cash drawer
27 Bullring bravo
28 Albacore, e.g.
29 Palm-reader, for one
31 Football lining
34 Chowed down
35 Old Faithful, e.g.
37 French vineyard
38 Data amount
39 Ages and ages
40 "Yeah, right!"
41 Frosts
44 Rage
45 Vast expanse
46 Measure of work
47 Fawn's mama

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	P	I	C	■	D	A	B	■	G	A	L	A
R	E	T	I	C	U	L	A	■	A	R	I	D
G	A	S	P	E	D	A	L	■	S	E	E	D
■	■	■	H	I	S	■	D	Y	L	A	N	S
I	M	P	E	L	■	S	H	O	O	■	■	■
N	E	A	R	■	S	T	E	N	G	E	L	■
D	O	R	■	S	T	R	A	D	■	M	O	W
■	W	A	G	E	R	E	D	■	R	I	C	E
■	■	■	A	V	O	W	■	B	E	L	I	E
A	R	I	S	E	N	■	P	A	M	■	■	■
C	O	N	J	■	G	A	S	L	I	G	H	T
M	A	N	E	■	E	L	S	I	N	O	R	E
E	R	S	T	■	R	E	T	■	D	O	S	E

Yesterday's answer 8-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Florence Welch, 26; Armie Hammer, 26; Jack Black, 43; Shania Twain, 47.

Happy Birthday: It's time to turn up the volume and make a little noise. If you want something, speak up and let others know. Socializing more will bring new friends, ideas and plans for the future. Take hold of whatever situation you face. Own your life, instead of letting others make decisions for you. Your numbers are 5, 12, 17, 20, 31, 38, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Pace yourself. Helping someone is fine, unless your work suffers, making you look bad. You can advance by enlisting the help of someone you can count on and focusing on your goals. A past acquaintance will come in handy. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Promoting, presenting and pushing what you want to do will turn out well, as long as you don't let emotions stand in your way. Accept criticism and implement what's suggested. Don't let ego stop you from getting ahead. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick to your budget. You may have some great ideas that will improve your living arrangements, but if what you do is costly and adds to your financial stress, it won't be worth it in the end. Check out more cost-efficient lifestyles. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let your imagination wander. Implement some of the ideas you come up with to help you meet people who interest you personally or professionally. A contract can be written and signed that will help you financially. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Mingle, and try new activities that are conducive to meeting people who share your interests or your professional goals. Voicing your opinion will open doors that can bring about an offer that is too good to refuse. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Encourage others and you will get plenty of help to achieve your goals in return. Include a diverse group of people in your plans. A challenge will be exhilarating and prove that you are up for anything that comes your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Seeing is believing. Making sense of a situation that is spinning out of control may be difficult if you don't separate your emotions. Stop ignoring facts and take action. You may need to make a move or change your goals. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be careful when dealing with someone in a competitive position. Giving away your secrets or ideas will leave you open to imitation. Love is on the rise, and interacting with someone you love will feed your creativity. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Mixed signals may confuse you. Ask questions before you promise something you'll regret. Greater opportunity to work as a team player or to broaden your relationships with people you find interesting is apparent. Try something new and challenge yourself. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put together a plan that will allow you to budget wisely and bank more. Consistency will count if you want to move forward. Too much waffling or impulsive action will be equally confining. Focus on what you can do in the moment. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Fix up your surroundings or pick up financial information that will help you prosper. Speak up and share your thoughts with someone who is capable of helping you make personal changes. Use your ability to maneuver into a favorable position. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Secrets are apparent, and it doesn't matter whether it's you or someone else withholding information; both cases will make you look bad or lead you in the wrong direction. Step back and focus on love and having a little fun for now. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, progressive and eager to take control. You are a doer.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2					9		
6	1		8	4				
		8	1		7			4
	9	3				7		
	5						8	
		6				2	5	
2			4		9	3		
				7	8		9	6
		7					4	

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	8	9	7	1	6	3	4
6	9	4	8	3	5	2	1	7
7	3	1	6	2	4	8	5	9
3	7	5	1	6	8	4	9	2
1	4	9	7	5	2	3	6	8
8	2	6	3	4	9	1	7	5
5	6	7	4	8	3	9	2	1
9	8	2	5	1	6	7	4	3
4	1	3	2	9	7	5	8	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RAY BRADBURY (1920-2012) Solution: 14 letters

I	R	F	Z	E	R	O	M	U	H	C	T	I	W	L
L	A	O	U	S	E	T	I	R	E	U	G	R	A	M
E	M	U	C	T	T	R	F	A	M	E	S	N	E	S
S	O	R	S	K	S	I	L	A	S	Y	R	H	C	A
U	N	F	E	N	E	T	D	(H)	F	A	M	O	U	S
O	A	I	L	E	A	T	M	L	(O)	N	G	R	W	T
H	Y	F	C	B	L	S	S	A	E	(U)	D	R	R	I
Y	R	T	I	E	E	L	U	E	R	V	(R)	O	I	E
A	A	Y	N	T	X	A	M	S	U	T	A	R	T	H
L	R	O	O	T	A	N	I	A	R	Q	I	R	E	N
P	B	N	R	I	N	I	G	H	T	N	E	A	R	E
L	I	E	H	N	D	F	I	N	N	E	G	A	N	R
A	L	U	C	A	R	D	I	O	R	E	T	S	A	H
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Yesterday's Answer: Unplanned

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34: Celebrate 20 of Universal Uclick's largest print collections to date! Books, puzzle packs, and more are available at your favorite bookstore, or visit the Universal Uclick online shop at www.mypuzzlebook.com. Send a WONDERWORD to 11040 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64105 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at www.mypuzzlebook.com. Orders of 3 puzzles or more are 25% off!

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
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• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 30, 2012, at 10:00 A.M. at the CRM Office Located behind the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call
II. PERMIT APPLICATION
Chalan Galaide Estate – CRM Permit no. SMS-2011-X-063
a. Request to Amend Permit
b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
III. OTHER MATTERS
IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **RITA C. CHONG - DELACRUZ**
Administrator

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SIKDER MUHSIN,
Plaintiff,
vs.
KAREN A. TAYLOR AND JOCINTA F. CLEMEN, jointly and severally,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 12-0124C
SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Verified Complaint, which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon Plaintiff's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Complaint.

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT:
Dated this 31st of May, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

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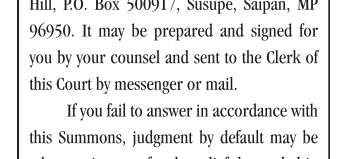

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Red Sox recover, but may lose Ortiz

BOSTON (AP) — With a well-placed ground ball up the middle, James Loney showed he can fit in at Fenway Park - just like Chavez Ravine.

Loney hit a tying single in his Boston debut, Jacoby Ellsbury drove in the go-ahead run an inning later and the revamped Red Sox bounced back from a nine-player trade and a 12-inning loss to beat the Kansas City Royals 8-6 on Sunday.

''I'm glad I'm here. It's one of the best atmospheres in baseball,'' Loney said after getting his first AL hit in his first game following the deal that brought him to Boston. ''It felt good getting that opportunity, having a chance to deliver. I just want to keep that up.''

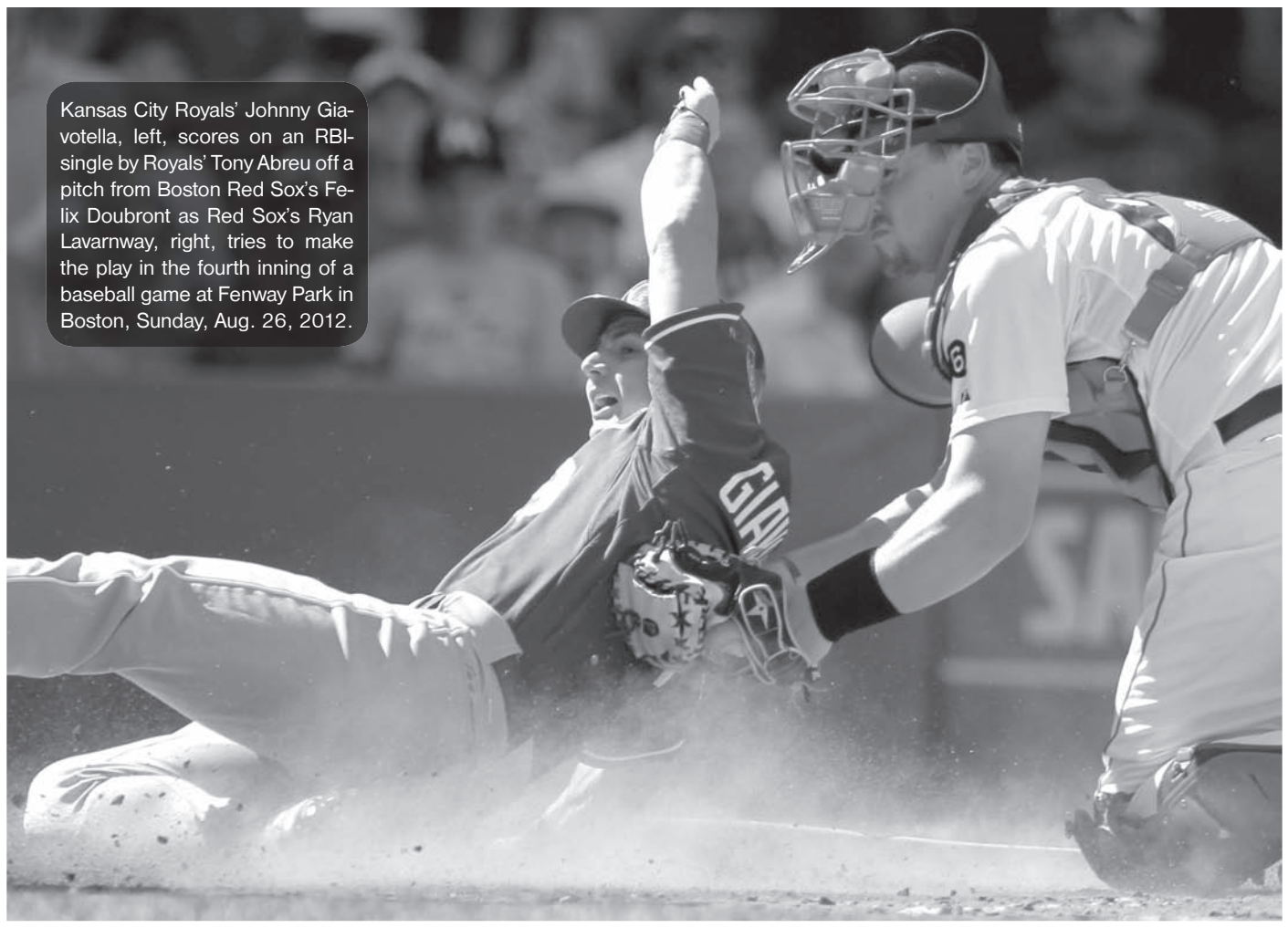
A day after he was the only major leaguer coming to Boston in a deal that sent Josh Beckett, Adrian Gonzalez, Carl Crawford, Nick Punto and more than $250 million in salary to the Los Angeles Dodgers, Loney went 1 for 5.

Meanwhile, David Ortiz is likely to return to the disabled list Monday and could be shut down for the season.

That, in turn, could mean the DH has played his final game with the Red Sox.

Ortiz, who returned Friday night after missing 35 games with an Achilles strain but then missed both games over the weekend, will find out Monday when, and if, he can return to the lineup. If he's done for the season, as manager Bobby Valentine indicated before the game, the potential free agent may have ended his distinguished Red Sox career.

He says he wants to stay in Boston but has been upset with management over its unwillingness to give him more than a one-year contract.



Kansas City Royals' Johnny Giavotella, left, scores on an RBI-single by Royals' Tony Abreu off a pitch from Boston Red Sox's Felix Doubront as Red Sox's Ryan Lavarnway, right, tries to make the play in the fourth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Sunday, Aug. 26, 2012.

White Sox 4, Mariners 3

In Chicago, Tyler Flowers hit a go-ahead homer just before the final downpour and the Chicago White Sox beat the Seattle Mariners 4-3 in a rain-shortened game Sunday for their sixth straight victory.

Immediately following a 6-minute rain delay in the seventh inning, Flowers launched a two-run shot off Kevin Millwood to lead first-place Chicago to its second consecutive series sweep.

Twins 6, Rangers 5

In Arlington, with his recent success against the Texas Rangers, Cole De Vries was glad he got a second chance to face the top-scoring team in the majors.

De Vries won for the first time in nearly two months, Ben Revere had four hits and the Minnesota Twins held off the Rangers, 6-5, to snap a five-game losing streak. The Twins rookie right-hander threw five pitches in the first inning before he endured a rain delay of 1 hour, 26 minutes.

Yankees 4, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Rafael Soriano and the New York Yankees dodged their way to an important win.

Curtis Granderson hit his 200th career homer and Soriano shook off getting hit on the side of his right hand by a line drive as the Yankees beat the Cleveland Indians. 4-2.

''It feels fine right now,'' Soriano said after getting struck in the ninth inning by a shot by Jason Kipnis that was headed right at his head. ''It hit my glove or my hand, I'm not sure which one first.''

Tigers 5, Angels 2

In Detroit, Prince Fielder and Delmon Young provided the power the Detroit Tigers were missing with Miguel Cabrera out of the lineup.

Max Scherzer was pretty strong on the mound, too.

Fielder hit a tiebreaking two-run shot in the sixth inning and Young homered on the next pitch to support Scherzer and help Detroit beat the Los Angeles Angels, 5-2.

''It was a really good win because Miggy wasn't in the lineup,'' Scherzer said.

Phillies 4, Nationals 1

In Philadelphia, Cliff Lee tossed seven sharp innings to earn his first home win in nearly a year and the Philadelphia Phillies completed a three-game sweep against the major league-leading Washington Nationals with a 4-1 victory on Sunday.

The Nationals have lost four straight for the first time since June 15-19.

Cardinals 8, Reds 2

In Cincinatti, Matt Holliday had four hits and four RBIs, Adam Wainwright won his fifth consecutive start and the St. Louis Cardinals beat Cincinnati.

Allen Craig homered and drove in three runs as St. Louis handed the Reds just their second series loss in 13 sets since the All-Star break. The Cardinals have won five of six to move within six games of the NL Central-leading Reds.

Marlins 6, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Rob Brantly gave Miami the lead for good with his first major league home run, and the Marlins also got long balls from Giancarlo Stanton, Jose Reyes and Carlos Lee to beat the revamped Los Angeles Dodgers in the finale of an 11-game road trip.

Mark Buehrle (12-11) won his third straight start, allowing a run and six hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Brewers 7, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Carlos Gomez and Aramis Ramirez homered off Erik Bedard, leading Mark Rogers and the Milwaukee Brewers over the wobbling Pittsburgh Pirates.

The Pirates have lost five of six. They trail St. Louis by two games for the second NL wild-card spot, with the Cardinals coming to PNC Park for a three-game series starting Monday night.

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Edinson Volquez pitched seven effective innings and the San Diego Padres extended their winning streak to a season-high seven games by beating Arizona.

The Padres roughed up Trevor Cahill (9-11) and had at least 10 hits for the sixth time in eight games to complete their second sweep in the desert this season.

Cubs 5, Rockies 0, 8 innings

In Chicago, Chris Volstad ended a 24-start winless streak, allowing three hits in 6 2-3 strong innings as the Chicago Cubs beat Colorado in a game shortened to eight innings by rain.

Volstad (1-9), acquired from Miami for Carlos Zambrano, earned his first win since he beat Houston while pitching for the Marlins on July 10, 2011. He was 0-14 during his skid.

Mets 2, Astros 1

In New York, Ike Davis hit his second homer of the day with one out in the ninth inning soon after new left fielder Lucas Duda cut a runner down at the plate, lifting the New York Mets over Houston for their first series win at home since early July.

Mets rookie Jeremy Hefner took a shutout into the ninth before giving up a tying double to Marwin Gonzalez.

Braves 7, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Tim Hudson suggested Jason Heyward should move to San Francisco. Then, after a pause: ''But still play for us.''

Hudson pitched seven strong innings for his seventh consecutive victory and Paul Janish tripled home two runs to help the Atlanta Braves beat the San Francisco Giants, 7-1.

Heyward, Freddie Freeman, and Juan Francisco homered for the Braves, who won their second straight after losing six of seven.

D-backs trade Saunders to Orioles for Lindstrom

BALTIMORE (AP)—Eager to bolster an inexperienced pitching staff during their first playoff run since 1997, the Baltimore Orioles obtained left-hander Joe Saunders on Sunday in a trade with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Baltimore gave Arizona right-handed reliever Matt Lindstrom and cash considerations or a player to be named later.

Saunders, who was scheduled to start Sunday against San Diego, was 6-10 with a 4.22 ERA in 21 starts with Arizona this season. He won 12 games last season while helping the Diamondbacks win their first NL West title since 2007.

Baltimore began the day tied for the second American League wild-card spot with Oakland and in third place in the AL East, only four games behind the division-leading New York Yankees.

''I like our ballclub's chances,'' said Dan Duquette, the Orioles vice president of baseball operations. ''There's an old saying: If you're going in the right direction, keep walking. So the addition of Joe Saunders gives us a chance to keep walking in the right direction. And I think it gives us better balance against the left-handed lineups that we're going to be facing.''

Saunders was born in nearby northern Virginia, played high school ball in Virginia and pitched at Virginia Tech before being drafted in the first round of the 2002 draft by the Los Angeles Angels.

''We've liked Joe Saunders for quite a while,'' Duquette said. ''We had some discussions with him in the offseason. He's a local kid and a professional left-handed pitcher. He's won more than he's lost in the big leagues, he's pitched in the American League, he's pitched in the playoffs. He's pitched in a tough ballpark in Arizona.''

The Orioles have only one left-hander in the bullpen and a rotation that includes rookies Miguel Gonzalez, Wei-Yin Chen and Steve Johnson.

''We just liked his experience, which I think compliments our starting rotation,'' Duquette said of Saunders. ''And I also like the fact he's left-handed.''

Saunders, 31, has pitched for the Angels and Diamondbacks since launching his big league career in 2005.

''I just like this addition of veteran left-handed depth to our staff,'' Duquette said. ''It helps solidify the starting rotation while we're waiting for (injured) Jason Hammel to return. Then, if Jason Hammel does return, it gives us another good left-handed option because Joe Saunders is very good left-on-left. While we're waiting for (left-handed reliever Troy) Patton to come back, if we have several starters doing well, Joe gives us more depth and experience to our pitching staff.''

Lindstrom went 1-0 with a 2.72 ERA in 34 appearances with the Orioles this season. He has held right-handers to a .207 average and scoreless in 10 of his past 11 outings.

Lindstrom has played six major league seasons with Miami, Houston, Colorado and Baltimore.

''He's another right-handed power arm. He's got some experience here in the West as well. We're pretty familiar with him, and you can see we like power arms in our bullpen, so he'll be a good addition,'' Arizona manager Kirk Gibson said.

Duquette believed Saunders would be more valuable to the Orioles than Lindstrom at this point in the season.

''Matt Lindstrom did a nice job for us. He contributed to the bullpen,'' Duquette said. ''I just think the left-handed addition to our starting rotation and the capability to get more innings at a high level was better for the team at this stage of the season. And who knows? Joe Saunders is a local kid. Maybe he's with us beyond this year. That's something we can take a look at. It certainly strengthens us now.''

To fill Lindstrom's place on the 25-man roster, the Orioles recalled right-hander Jake Arrieta from Triple-A Norfolk. Arrieta, Baltimore's opening day starter, went 3-9 with a 6.13 ERA in 18 starts with the Orioles before being optioned to Norfolk on July 5.

Watney steals win from Garcia at Barclays

THE BARCLAYS™

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)—Even after a year that didn't come close to his expectations, Nick Watney wasn't about to give up on his season.

Amazing how one week changed his outlook in so many ways.

He beat one of the strongest fields of the year at The Barclays, on the tough track of Bethpage Black. Winning the opening playoff event for the FedEx Cup guarantees him a good shot at the $10 million prize. And suddenly, playing in the Ryder Cup becomes a lot more realistic.

That all came into play Sunday when Watney didn't miss a green until the 16th hole, turned a two-shot deficit against Sergio Garcia into a three-shot lead, overcame a trio of three-putt bogeys with clutch birdies, and closed with a 2-under 69 for a three-shot victory.

"It's been not quite the year I wanted," Watney said. "But this really makes it all forgotten. Winning a tournament is hard, but winning out here and against this field was very, very difficult. I'm kind of still on a high right now."

U.S. captain Davis Love III has a lot more choices for his four wild-card selections next week.

Watney won by three shots over Brandt Snedeker, who already was part of the discussion as a potential pick. Snedeker, a winner in San Diego and a contender in the British Open, battled to the end and made big putts on the last two holes for a 1-under 70 to finish alone in second.

Dustin Johnson, also under consideration as a pick, shot 68 and tied for third with Garcia, whose bogey on the final hole gave him a 75.

Not even Watney thought he was worthy of being picked for the Ryder Cup going into the week.

"I'm thinking much more now than I was coming in," he said. "Coming in here, I didn't deserve to be in the conversation because I had not played my way in. Someone told me that Davis said he wanted a hot player, and we still have a week to go. But like I said, I'd love to be on the team. But I'm not really concerned with it just because it's out of my control."

Love will announce his picks after the second playoff event, the Deutsche Bank Championship, which ends on Labor Day. Steve Stricker and Jim Furyk are likely to be two of those picks, and the other two suddenly are wide open.

AP

Nick Watney, right, shakes hands with Sergio Garcia on the 18th green after winning The Barclays golf tournament at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, N.Y., Sunday, Aug. 26, 2012.

"Ryder Cup is definitely on my mind," Snedeker said. "But I'm not letting it affect the way I play. Try to win every golf tournament. It gives me more motivation to do it, and if I do that, I know I will make the decision easy for them.

"Davis has an extremely difficult choice with a bunch of guys who did not play well enough over the last two years to be on the team. You can't go wrong with any of them. I think that it's certainly helped everybody who played well this week."

Watney, who won for the fifth time in his career, finished on 10-under 278.

In what amounted to a duel with Garcia for so much of the day, Watney fell two shots behind after he three-putted for bogey on the fifth hole and Garcia made a 40-footer for birdie on the next hole. Garcia, going for his second straight PGA Tour win, never had much of a chance after that.

"I hit a couple bad shots at the wrong moments," Garcia said. "And unfortunately, I just wasn't feeling comfortable."

Watney two-putted for birdie on the seventh. On the par-3 eighth, Garcia scrambled for bogey from the bunker, while Watney holed a bending, 30-foot birdie putt to take his first lead of the day. Another two-shot swing followed on the 10th, when Garcia three-putted and Watney hit a beautiful approach to 4 feet for birdie.

Both were sloppy on the back nine, but Watney hit all the right shots and seized control for good with a 10-foot birdie putt on the 14th.

"I made more putts than I made all year," Watney said.

He credits that to some tips from Darrell Kestner, the respected club pro at nearby Deepdale, a lesson set up by a friend. Kestner worked on his setup, mainly keeping Watney from leaning to far back on his heels.

"It paid off," Watney said.

Tiger Woods, six shots behind at the start of the day, never made a move. He alternated between bogeys and birdies until the sixth hole, and his round imploded on the back nine with a three-putt double bogey on the 12th, a poor wedge that led to bogey on the par-5 13th, and a tee shot on the par-3 14th that sailed over the green and one-hopped against the gallery. He closed with a 76 and tied for 38th.

Woods left without speaking to CBS Sports or any other media. It was this third 72-hole tournament over par this year, the other two coming at majors.

Bethpage Black didn't feel like one on Sunday.

Bills in talks to acquire Seahawks QB Tarvaris Jackson

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—The Buffalo Bills are negotiating to restructure the final year of Tarvaris Jackson's contract before completing a trade with the Seattle Seahawks to acquire the seventh-year quarterback.

Seahawks coach Pete Carroll confirmed the deal had been agreed to by both teams Sunday, but added the trade wasn't completed.

"It has been agreed upon, but there is still a little bit of paperwork to do," Carroll said during a telephone conference call with reporters. "It might be done tonight. It is scheduled to be done."

A person familiar with discussions told The Associated Press that the Bills were in negotiations with Jackson's agent, Joel Segal, to restructure the player's contract. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because neither team has disclosed why the trade had not yet been completed.

"It's close," the person said.

Jackson is scheduled to make $4 million this season, which the Bills deem to be too expensive for a player to fill a backup job.

Carroll didn't say what the Seahawks will get in return, though it's expected to be a mid- to late-round draft pick from Buffalo.

The Bills have no commented on the trade.

Jackson's future was in question with the Seahawks after the team acquired Matt Flynn in free agency this offseason, and after using a third-round pick to draft Russell Wilson in April.

The timing of the deal came shortly before Carroll announced that Wilson would open the season as the starting quarterback.

"Because of our situation, and the opportunity with the guys that we have, (Jackson) deserves a chance to be playing, so Buffalo came after him and hopefully it's a good thing for him," Carroll said.

Jackson sat out the Seahawks' first two preseason games, before getting his first action taking over for Wilson in the second half of a 44-14 win over Kansas City on Friday. And Jackson served as the backup in part because Flynn missed the game due to a sore elbow.

The Bills' interest in Jackson potentially spells trouble for Vince Young in his bid to win the backup job in Buffalo behind starter Ryan Fitzpatrick.

Young, who signed a one-year contract with Buffalo in May, had the edge to win the No. 2 job until he struggled in a 38-7 loss to Pittsburgh on Saturday. Young threw two interceptions, the first coming on his first pass attempt, and finished 12 of 26 for 103 yards passing in playing the entire second half.

oung had been competing with returning backup Tyler Thigpen for the No. 2 job. And coach Chan Gailey has maintained that there's only room for one backup, because the No. 3 job is going to receiver/wildcat specialist Brad Smith.

It would become the latest blow to Young's once-promising career. After leading Texas to win the national championship in 2006, Young was selected third overall in the draft by the Tennessee Titans and eventually went on to earn NFL offensive rookie of the year honors.

The Titans eventually ran out of patience for Young and released him last summer. Young had a disappointing season as Michael Vick's backup in Philadelphia last season.

He's 17-17 as a starter, with 38 touchdowns and 35 interceptions in 51 career games.

Selected in the second round of the 2006 draft by Minnesota, Jackson had an up-and-down five-year career with the Vikings. His most productive season came in 2007, when he started 12 games.

Jackson lost the starting job to Gus Frerotte the following season, and then spent 2009 and 2010 seasons relegated to backup duty behind Brett Favre.

T.O. *released by Seahawks*

SEATTLE (AP)--Terrell Owens' NFL return lasted less than three weeks.

Owens was released by the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday, part of the league-mandated roster reductions from 90 to 75 players.

The 38-year-old receiver posted a message on his Twitter account shortly before 11 a.m. that he had been released and the Seahawks made the move official in the afternoon.

"I'm no longer a Seahawk," Owens tweeted. "I THANK the organization 4 the opportunity, I'm truly blessed beyond belief. My FAITH is intact & will NOT waiver."

Owens wasn't the only veteran to get cut by the Seahawks. Offensive linemen Deuce Lutui and Alex Barron both had their veteran contracts terminated, while Seattle waived/injured defensive back Roy Lewis (knee), tight end Cameron Morrah (toe), defensive tackle Pep Levingston (knee) and linebacker Jamison Konz (shoulder).

Owens signed a one-year deal with Seattle (No. 22 in AP-Pro32) on Aug. 7, following a sterling workout that had coaches and Seahawks staff raving about how good he looked for having not played an NFL game in more than 18 months.

"We really liked the group that we assembled. Terrell came in here and busted his tail and he looked really effective right from the start," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "But as we just took a look at our guys that are coming through the program and growing up with us we thought that it would be best for us to stay with those guys."

Owens signed just before Seattle's first preseason game and made his debut in the second week against Denver. But his preseason performance was more notable for the passes he dropped than anything he caught.

Owens dropped a potential 46-yard touchdown against Denver on a perfect throw from Matt Flynn. He failed to make a catch in any of his five targets against the Broncos and then had another glaring drop against Kansas City on Friday night.

He finished the preseason with just two receptions - a 40-yard catch from Russell Wilson where Owens had to slow down and lean back to haul in the pass and a 1-yard reception on a screen.

For as impressive as his long catch was in Seattle's 44-14 win over the Chiefs, it served as Owens' only highlight in a Seahawks uniform.

Owens was trying to make a comeback after not playing since Week 15 of the 2010 season while with Cincinnati. He sat out the entire 2011 season following surgery on his left knee and failed to receive any offers.

Owens got the rust off this spring playing for the Allen Wranglers of the Indoor Football League. He had 35 catches for 420 yards and 10 touchdowns while playing eight of 11 games, but was released and lost an ownership stake in the team in May.

Owens, a third-round draft choice by San Francisco in 1996, has started 201 of the 219 regular-season NFL games he has played in his career. He has 1,078 receptions for 15,934 yards and 153 touchdowns - the second most in league history.

His nine seasons with at least 1,000 yards receiving and 13 years with at least 50 catches rank third. His total receptions are sixth on the NFL career list. Owens spent eight seasons with San Francisco, two with Philadelphia, and three with Dallas before a pair of one-year stints with Buffalo and Cincinnati.

"I've been rehabbing and working out for the past year since the injury and that's all I've ever wanted since I've been out is another opportunity," Owens said following his first practice on Aug. 8. "That has been given to me by the Seattle Seahawks and again I am very grateful for that."

Among Seattle's other cuts to reach the 75-man limit were wide receiver Phil Bates, running back Tyrell Sutton, cornerbacks Ron Parker and Donny Lisowski and offensive lineman Edawn Coughman.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	74	53	.583	–
Tampa Bay	70	57	.551	4
Baltimore	69	57	.548	4 1/2
Boston	61	67	.477	13 1/2
Toronto	56	70	.444	17 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	71	55	.563	–
Detroit	69	58	.543	2 1/2
Kansas City	56	70	.444	15
Cleveland	55	72	.433	16 1/2
Minnesota	52	75	.409	19 1/2

West Division

Texas	75	52	.591	–
Oakland	69	57	.548	5 1/2
Los Angeles	66	62	.516	9 1/2
Seattle	61	67	.477	14 ½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	77	50	.606	–
Atlanta	73	55	.570	4 1/2
Philadelphia	61	67	.477	16 1/2
New York	59	69	.461	18 1/2
Miami	58	71	.450	20

Central Division

Cincinnati	77	52	.597	–
St. Louis	70	57	.551	6
Pittsburgh	68	59	.535	8
Milwaukee	59	67	.468	16 1/2
Chicago	49	77	.389	26 1/2
Houston	40	88	.313	36 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	71	57	.555	–
Los Angeles	69	59	.539	2
Arizona	64	64	.500	7
San Diego	59	70	.457	12 1/2
Colorado	51	75	.405	19

THE BARCLAYS SCORES

FINAL ROUND

Nick Watney (2,500), $1,440,000	65-69-71-69–274
Brandt Snedeker (1,500), $864,000	70-69-68-70–277
Sergio Garcia (875), $464,000	66-68-69-75–278
Dustin Johnson (875), $464,000	67-71-72-68–278
Graham DeLaet (481), $281,000	75-67-72-65–279
Brian Harman (481), $281,000	65-75-68-71–279
Louis Oosthuizen (481), $281,000	70-71-68-70–279
Lee Westwood (481), $281,000	69-72-68-70–279
Greg Chalmers (400), $232,000	70-70-68-72–280
Bud Cauley (303), $160,889	71-71-72-67–281
Tim Clark (303), $160,889	70-72-67-72–281
Luke Donald (303), $160,889	68-74-69-70–281
Bob Estes (303), $160,889	69-66-72-74–281
Tom Gillis (303), $160,889	69-72-68-72–281
David Hearn (303), $160,889	70-73-67-71–281
William McGirt (303), $160,889	68-74-67-72–281
Bubba Watson (303), $160,889	70-70-70-71–281
Kevin Stadler (303), $160,889	72-69-65-75–281
Padraig Harrington (250), $96,960	64-75-75-68–282
J.B. Holmes (250), $96,960	71-69-73-69–282
Geoff Ogilvy (250), $96,960	70-72-69-71–282
John Senden (250), $96,960	68-68-72-74–282
Josh Teater (250), $96,960	72-71-69-70–282
Ricky Barnes (208), $56,700	71-72-70-70–283
Roberto Castro (208), $56,700	76-67-69-71–283
Jason Day (208), $56,700	70-70-77-66–283
Harris English (208), $56,700	70-69-71-73–283
Rickie Fowler (208), $56,700	67-70-75-71–283
Rory McIlroy (208), $56,700	69-73-69-72–283
Ryan Moore (208), $56,700	69-69-70-75–283
Ryan Palmer (208), $56,700	75-68-68-72–283
Carl Pettersson (208), $56,700	73-66-73-71–283
Charl Schwartzel (208), $56,700	71-69-69-74–283
Scott Stallings (208), $56,700	72-70-71-70–283
Bo Van Pelt (208), $56,700	70-69-74-70–283
John Huh (173), $40,200	70-67-77-70–284
Ian Poulter (173), $40,200	68-71-76-69–284
Tommy Gainey (148), $32,000	70-70-73-72–285
Zach Johnson (148), $32,000	68-75-72-70–285
Matt Kuchar (148), $32,000	72-68-73-72–285
Phil Mickelson (148), $32,000	68-74-67-76–285
Greg Owen (148), $32,000	68-73-72-72–285
Pat Perez (148), $32,000	66-70-77-72–285
Jimmy Walker (148), $32,000	66-74-74-71–285
Tiger Woods (148), $32,000	68-69-72-76–285
Jonas Blixt (108), $21,080	67-73-73-73–286
Gary Christian (108), $21,080	66-71-77-72–286
Chris Kirk (108), $21,080	68-71-76-71–286
Billy Mayfair (108), $21,080	71-72-71-72–286
Bryce Molder (108), $21,080	70-73-71-72–286
Rod Pampling (108), $21,080	70-73-74-69–286
Justin Rose (108), $21,080	67-72-79-68–286
Vijay Singh (108), $21,080	68-67-76-75–286
Ernie Els (68), $18,000	68-72-72-75–287
Brian Gay (68), $18,000	71-72-72-72–287
Charles Howell III (68), $18,000	71-69-77-70–287
Troy Kelly (68), $18,000	74-66-74-73–287
Sean O'Hair (68), $18,000	71-72-73-71–287
John Rollins (68), $18,000	72-69-74-72–287
Henrik Stenson (68), $18,000	73-65-78-71–287
Steve Stricker (68), $18,000	69-71-73-74–287
Adam Scott (45), $17,280	70-69-74-75–288
Kevin Streelman (38), $17,040	69-72-76-72–289
Michael Thompson (38), $17,040	71-68-77-73–289
Blake Adams (28), $16,720	71-69-78-72–290
Troy Matteson (28), $16,720	68-73-76-73–290
Trevor Immelman (13), $16,240	75-66-75-75–291
Fredrik Jacobson (13), $16,240	71-68-79-73–291
George McNeill (13), $16,240	67-76-71-77–291
Seung-Yul Noh (13), $16,240	71-71-78-71–291
Robert Garrigus (5), $15,760	73-68-77-74–292
Martin Laird (5), $15,760	70-68-77-77–292
K.J. Choi (5), $15,440	67-71-80-75–293
Jeff Maggert (5), $15,440	69-74-74-76–293
James Driscoll (5), $15,200	73-70-75-77–295

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MBA students join soccer clinic

The Saipan Soccer School and Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) hosted a soccer clinic for 25 students of the Marianas Baptist Academy last Friday at the CPA Football Field.

The clinic focused on fundamentals, individual responsibilities, and utilizing skills to work as a team. Clinic participants learned basic technical and tactical soccer strategies while having fun.

"It was a great clinic. The students picked up the foot skills and were encouraged to continue their interest in the sport," Chelsea Soccer School coach Jack Wong said.

"They had great attitudes and were a joy to coach," fellow coach Yiu Ka Wai from Hong Kong added.

The Saipan Soccer School has been working with the Hong Kong-based school in a partnership agreement to nurture and support the growth of soccer and this clinic was one of many events that the Saipan Soccer School has conducted since its opening in June 2011.

"MBA students picked up how to 'attack' the ball instead of just kicking it. They recognized to give importance on how something is done instead of just doing it,"Saipan Soccer School coach Jershwin Angeles said.

Assisting Angeles and the visiting coaches in holding last weekend's clinic were Ruselle Zapanta, Irish Pagarao, and Mae Ito.

Meanwhile, the school's administrative office is located in the 2nd floor of the JP Center, Garapan and is open to inquiries and opportunities to further grow the sport. For more information, call Saipan Soccer School at 235-0560 ext.148. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Baptist Academy students participate in drills during the clinic Saipan Soccer School and Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) hosted last Friday at the CPA Football Field.

REZNE

From Page 24

The 16-year-old Tsunami Saipan swimmers is planning to compete in the 50m and 100m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, and the 100m and 200m individual medley races in Turkey.

"I would like to have best times in all my events, especially in the individual medleys. I will try to beat Rezne's times," Kimura added.

Kimura, who will resume his training with Tsunami Saipan next month to prepare for the December event, just came from Japan after attending a clinic in Tsunashima.

"I trained for a month with the swimming club in Tsunashima. For the past three years, I have been staying at my friend's house while training in Japan, but this year I was on my own. Practice there was really tough but also fun at the same time. My time improved, I learned new skills, and made friends. I could never have this experience without my parents' support and other people who cheered for me," Kimura said.

As for Wong, he has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s email, asking for his events in Turkey, but the many-time member of the CNMI Team is expected to compete in breaststroke and IM races.

Wong, who returned to Saipan briefly this summer after representing the Commonwealth in the 9th Oceania Swimming Championships in New Caledonia in June, is now back in Hawaii and will be on his final year with the UH-Manoa Warriors.

NMICF

From Page 24

before returning to PauPau Beach.

Making it to the Top 10 of the MTB short course finishers were Jerome Diyco (50:27), Rusty Valino (50:49), who would have finished early if they did not make a wrong turn along the course, Ariel Lanisagan (52:30), Bonifacio Rivera (52:42), Ernesto Abing (55:33), Robert Oropesa (57:27), Gerald Rangamar (57:30), and Jun Teoporo (59:58).

In the MTB long course and road bike category, top placers Bob Ferrer and Nap Dizon completed the race under one hour.

Ferrer made it to the finish line at the 56:06 mark with his bike covered with mud, as it rained a few nights before the race took place. Ferrer completed the race more than three minutes ahead of runner-up Noel Altamirano, who timed in at 59:18. Altamirano came in just 28 seconds ahead of Russ Quinn, who settled for a third place finish after recording 59:46. Only the Top 3 finishers in the MTB long course broke the one-hour barrier.

Joining Ferrer and company in the Top 10 were Jay Arceo (1:01:33), Cesar Fortaleza 91:07:33), Rosario Quintos (1:08:32), Marcos Brono (1:10:00), first female finisher Robyn Wondrasek (1:11:58), Walter Brillo (1:11:49), and Manny Sitchon (1:16:34).

MTB long course riders went to Binadu Drive, one million tank, Radar road, Kalebera, Autobahn Trail, Santa Claus Lane, and Banzai Trail.

In the road bike race which brought riders to Banzai Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, Suicide Cliff, and back to Banzai Cliff before returning to PauPau, Dizon submitted 58:17 for a close win against Nathan Lesnienski. The runner-up biker clocked in at 58:22, more than a minute against of third placer Ariel Garon (59:58).

Meanwhile, in the youth race, bikers pedaled to as far as the entrance of the Cowtown road and back to PauPau, but results were unavailable at press time.

NMICF organized last weekend's race in coordination with Tan Holdings, which supported the event as part of its 40th anniversary celebration in the Marianas.

MP UNITED

From Page 24

co-ed players and will be coached by Joel Jimenez. Lydia Tan is the team manager of the 19-member MP United delegation, while Joon Lee will assist Jimenez.

The group will leave Saipan this Thursday and will be staying in Japan for six days for a series of matches and cultural exchange with its sister club Vivid Blue.

First up for the visiting team is Vivid Blue's U10 team as they collide this Saturday. Then it will be the turn of the host's U12 squad to challenge MP United's co-ed squad in the second exhibition match of the day.

After the two friendly games, MP United will be on business this Sunday when it competes in the 1st Pacific Ocean Cup. MP United players will be playing against a select team from Vivid Blue and two other clubs from Shizuoka.

To prepare for the Japan competition, Jimenez scheduled a practice session at the Garapan Elementary School pitch yesterday and the training will continue until Wednesday. Eleven players, including Clayton Izuka, Colin Ramsey, Moris Villanueva, Alex Park, Amir Abes, Wataru Tajima, Sun Joon Tenorio, and two girls, joined yesterday's training session. Majority of the members of the team going to Japan this week played for MP United's U12 team that ruled the 2011 NMIFA Fall League.

"The team did several fundraising activities this month to help defray the costs of the trip. The last fundraiser was this past weekend where the team participated in a Trash for Cash pick-up at the beach just south of Fiesta Resort & Spa. This program was done in conjunction with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce," Izuka said.

MP United's Japan trip is not a first, as the club also had its U14 team playing friendly matches against Vivid Blue a few years ago. MP United and Vivid Blue forged a partnership in 2008 through the help of its respective presidents—the former's Sue Knecht and the latter's Sachiko Tahara—and since then the sister clubs held cultural exchanges and friendly matches.

In March this year, Tahara, coach Kosuke Yakubo, and four boys U12 players visited Saipan and joined MP United's practice sessions at Navy Hill. Tahara also conducted a mini clinic.

Vivid Blue is a club based in Numazu, Shizuoka and was founded in 2006. It has more than 100 players divided into different age groups.

SATURDAY

From Page 24

runner-up Gigi Zapanta of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Fabie also made it to the winners circle after prevailing in the handicap series with her 663 pinfalls, 12 pinfalls ahead of Omechelang.

Cash prizes were awarded to the Top 2 finishers in the four categories, while league organizers also recognized winners in the team event.

Lemon Tree may have lost the overall championship to SBC/J's Restaurant, but the runner-up squad took two of the four team awards handed last weekend, while the latter and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan split the two other plums.

SBC/J's Restaurant, which ruled the league with its 43.5-28.5 record, outclassed Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in a neck-and-neck battle for the scratch game top honors. The overall champion recorded 1,002 for a 2-pinfall win over Fiesta.

In the scratch series, Lemon Tree won convincingly after earning 2,833 against the 2,822 of SBC/J's Restaurant. Lemon Tree got its second award in the handicap series after tallying 3,226 and beating the 3,136 of IT&E.

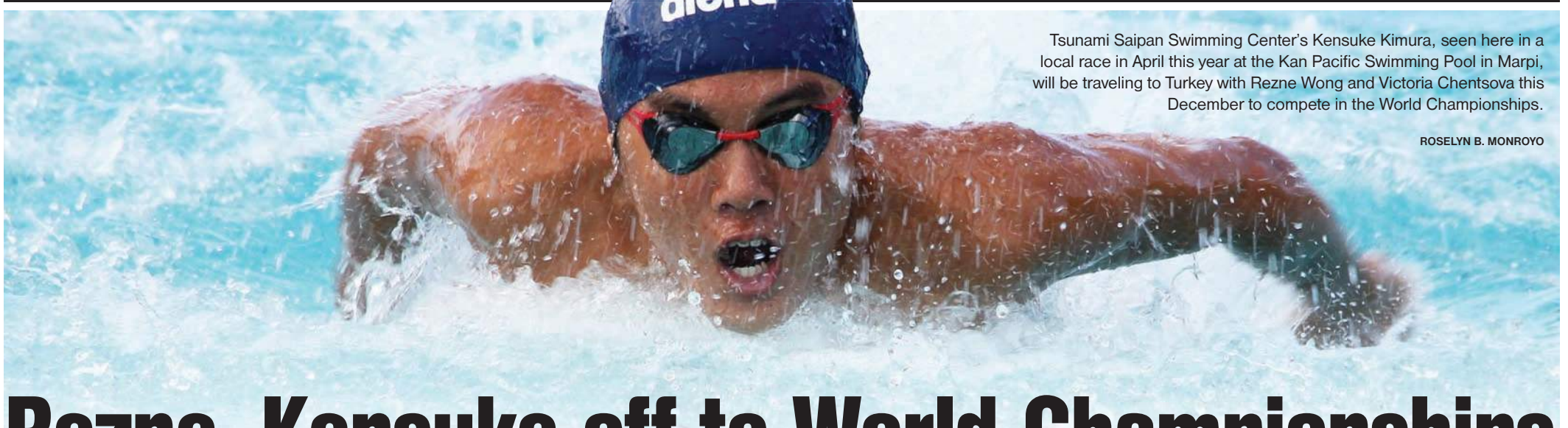
Fiesta Resort's lone team award came from the handicap game category, as it nailed 1,127 pinfalls, just 5 pinfall more than the 1,122 of Blasters.

Meanwhile, the league also handed out awards to bowlers with the high averages. Talavera topped the men's field with his 197.02 average, while Angeles (186.79) and Fiesta's Raymond Zapanta (183.22) finished second and third, respectively. In the women's division, Cal's 162.03 bested Fabie's 154.13 and Omechelang's 152.80.

Watney steals win from Garcia at Barclays
PAGE 22

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Red Sox recovers, but may lose Ortiz
PAGE 21



Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Kensuke Kimura, seen here in a local race in April this year at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi, will be traveling to Turkey with Rezne Wong and Victoria Chentsova this December to compete in the World Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rezne, Kensuke off to World Championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center members will represent the CNMI to the 11th FINA World Swimming in Turkey this December.

11th FINA WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS (25 m) 2012

Northern Marianas Swimming Federation selected Tsunami's Rezne Wong and Kensuke Kimura to join Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova on the CNMI Team that will compete in the short course (25-meter pool) tournament from Dec. 12 to 16 at the Sinan Erdem Dome in Istanbul. Completing the CNMI delegation is coach and former Commonwealth swimmer Minerva Cabrera.

The tournament in Turkey will be Kimura's first world championship stint, while Wong will be on his fourth (first three were held in Australia, Italy, and China), but first in a short course event.

"I feel really honored to represent the CNMI to this wonderful meet. I am looking forward to racing with swimmers from other countries and meeting new friends. I will show good sportsmanship and respect everyone joining the tournament," Kimura said.

See REZNE on Page 23

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bikers in last Saturday's youth race head out of PauPau Beach parking lot.

NMICF race draws 69 bikers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation's inaugural race last Sunday attracted 69 bikers.

The MBT sports course drew the most participants with 22, while the MTB long and road bike divisions had 21 and 19 riders, respectively. Completing the field of the weekend race that started and ended at PauPau Beach were seven youth bikers.

Ricky Suba of the MTB course was the first to make it to the finish line, timing in at 43:03. Bernardo Laborse and Alexander Gozon rounded out the Top 3 after submitting 46:51 and 47:51, respectively.

The Top 3 finishers and 19 others went through Binadu Drive, the back road of the Marianas Country Club, Kimikaze, paved road to Grotto, Santa Clause Lane, and Banzai Trail

See NMICF on Page 23

MP United to compete in Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United's U13 players are heading to Japan next month to play friendly games and compete in a tournament in Shizuoka.

Club president Vickie Izuka in an email to *Saipan Tribune* said MP United's U13 team has

See MP UNITED on Page 23

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United U13 players sprint at the Garapan Elementary School pitch during a training session yesterday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Winning bowlers pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 47th Philippine Bowling Association's Budweiser Saturday Night League last Sunday at the Capitol Bowling Center.

Saturday Night League winners feted

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Raymond Angeles, Ron Cal, and Robert Talavera notched two individual awards apiece in the 47th season of the Philippine Bowling Association's Budweiser Saturday Night League.

Angeles, who played for the runner-up Lemon Tree topped the scratch and handicap game, SBC/J's Restaurant's Talavera ruled the scratch and handicap series, and Now U Know's Cal prevailed in the scratch game and series races to walk away with the most recognitions at the awards ceremony held last Sunday at the Capitol Bowling Center.

Angeles' 274 in the scratch game topped the 270 of Talavera. Then in the handicap game, the Lemon Tree player collected 286 to share first place with IT&E' Bernard Paraiso.

Talavera got even with Angeles as the former posted 698 in the scratch series category to edge the 685 of the latter. The SBC/J's Restaurant bet then made it two in a row against Angeles after winning the handicap series division, 734-721.

In the women's division, Cal reigned supreme in the scratch game and series after collecting 212 and 546 pinfalls, respectively. Cal shared the scratch game top honors with One Shot's Gloria Omechelang and then had a 12-pinfall win over Salbahe's Maritess Fabie in the scratch series contest.

Omechelang did not go home empty handed, as her 251 in the handicap game gave her a 5-pinfall lead over

See SATURDAY on Page 23